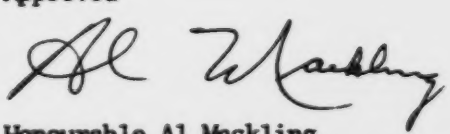
THE WHITESHELL MASTER PLAN

Department of Natural Resources

August 1983

Approved



Honourable Al Mackling
Minister of Natural Resources

Park Classification

In accordance with the Provincial Park Lands Act, Whiteshell is classified as a Provincial Natural Park.

Provincial Natural Parks represent areas which possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural heritage of Manitoba. Provincial Natural Parks are relatively spacious land and water areas that are capable of providing a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities and which are generally adaptable to multiple-use management.

Park Precepts

To further illustrate the role of Whiteshell within the Provincial Park System the following precepts have been defined. Whiteshell Provincial Natural Park will:

- Protect and preserve significant examples of natural history and the outstanding cultural history exemplified by native petroforms...
- Be Manitoba's key recreational area in the Canadian Shield providing opportunities for high quality camping and extensive trail systems for year-round use...
- Provide for the current level of high-quality cottaging...
- Provide an accessible Wilderness Zone for non-motorized recreational pursuits...
- Be managed to maintain a diverse sport fishery...
- Accommodate resource harvesting without detriment to the park environment and visitors.

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Introduction

Introduction

Encompassing some 2,764 sq. km. of land and water on the south-western edge of the Precambrian Shield, Whiteshell was the first, and is today, the largest of Manitoba's Provincial Parks.

This Master Plan for Whiteshell Provincial Natural Park is the result of a lengthy process. The initial report, **An Overview of the Park System with Objectives for Whiteshell**, provided a brief history and comparison of major parks in the present Provincial Park System, and identified planning objectives for Whiteshell Provincial Park. The objectives established specific targets for the Master Plan. Before being finalized these objectives were publicized, and were reviewed at meetings and through direct communication with the public. Next, the Draft Master Plan was prepared and similarly reviewed at public meetings, workshop sessions and through personal communication. Public interest and contributions were of substantial benefit in completing the Master Plan.

This plan attempts to achieve a balance between opportunities for intensive and extensive types of outdoor recreation by defining where and to what level development can and should occur, and where management will aim to preserve the relatively unaltered parklands. The plan recognizes that most of the intensively used areas in Whiteshell have been developed to maximum levels. An estimate of development capability or carrying capacity of waterbodies within the park indicated that lakes such as Falcon, West Hawk and Brereton, are fully developed. The need to upgrade and redevelop existing facilities in these areas is a clearly established priority. Where additional recreational opportunities are to be provided, such as at Meditation Lake, development will be kept well within the range of estimated carrying capacity.

Principal sections of the plan present zoning, recreational facilities, visitor services, resource management and park operations. Changing circumstances will require that the Master Plan be reviewed periodically since many factors will affect use and demand for outdoor recreation. A general update of the Master Plan will be undertaken every ten years.

1.0 Summary of Plan Achievements

1.0 Summary of Plan Achievements

- Park Classification and Precepts

This plan considers Whiteshell within the context of the whole of the Provincial Park System. The Whiteshell's classification as a Provincial Natural Park broadly defines its purpose while the precepts help further to distinguish the role of Whiteshell within the park system.

- Zoning

The plan provides direction for the use and management of the park through the establishment of land-use zones. Whiteshell's land-use zones range from a Wilderness Zone, which is intended to provide opportunities for non-mechanized recreation activities, to Intensive Recreation Zones which will accommodate the most uses and developments in the park. In addition, Special Areas encompassing significant natural and cultural resources are identified.

- Camping

The principle emphasis will be to improve the quality and number of campgrounds. Redevelopment and upgrading of existing facilities is of prime importance. Detailed site planning leading to the improvement of site conditions, facilities and services at existing campgrounds will commence in Phase I of plan implementation.

- Townsites

The plan establishes a framework for the preparation of detailed plans for the upgrading of the Falcon Lake and West Hawk Lakes townsites.

o Commercial Recreation Operations

A variety of programs are identified to improve the quality and enhance the viability of commercial recreational operations in the park. Guidelines are provided also for the future expansion and development of such operations.

o Roads, Trails and Transportation

Several new trails to increase opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are identified. Also established are guidelines for the controlled use of four-wheel-drive vehicles.

The plan presents general principles respecting the future upgrading of major park thoroughfares.

o Visitor Services and Interpretation

A comprehensive program to increase the supply of information on the park to all user-groups is outlined. Facilities and services range from visitor centres to trails, to brochures and displays, to an experimental radio broadcast system in the park.

o Resource Management

A program to alleviate water-quality problems by inspection and replacement or conversion of ineffective sewage systems is discussed.

Guidelines and priorities for the management of fish, vegetation, wildlife and human heritage resources are also provided.

The plan proposes the establishment of an Advisory Committee to identify and designate Special Areas.

Guidelines are provided respecting the commercial use and harvesting of resources. A permit review process leading to the establishment of specific terms and conditions on any proposed operation is identified. Also, a five-year plan to guide forestry operations in the park will be required.

- Park Operations

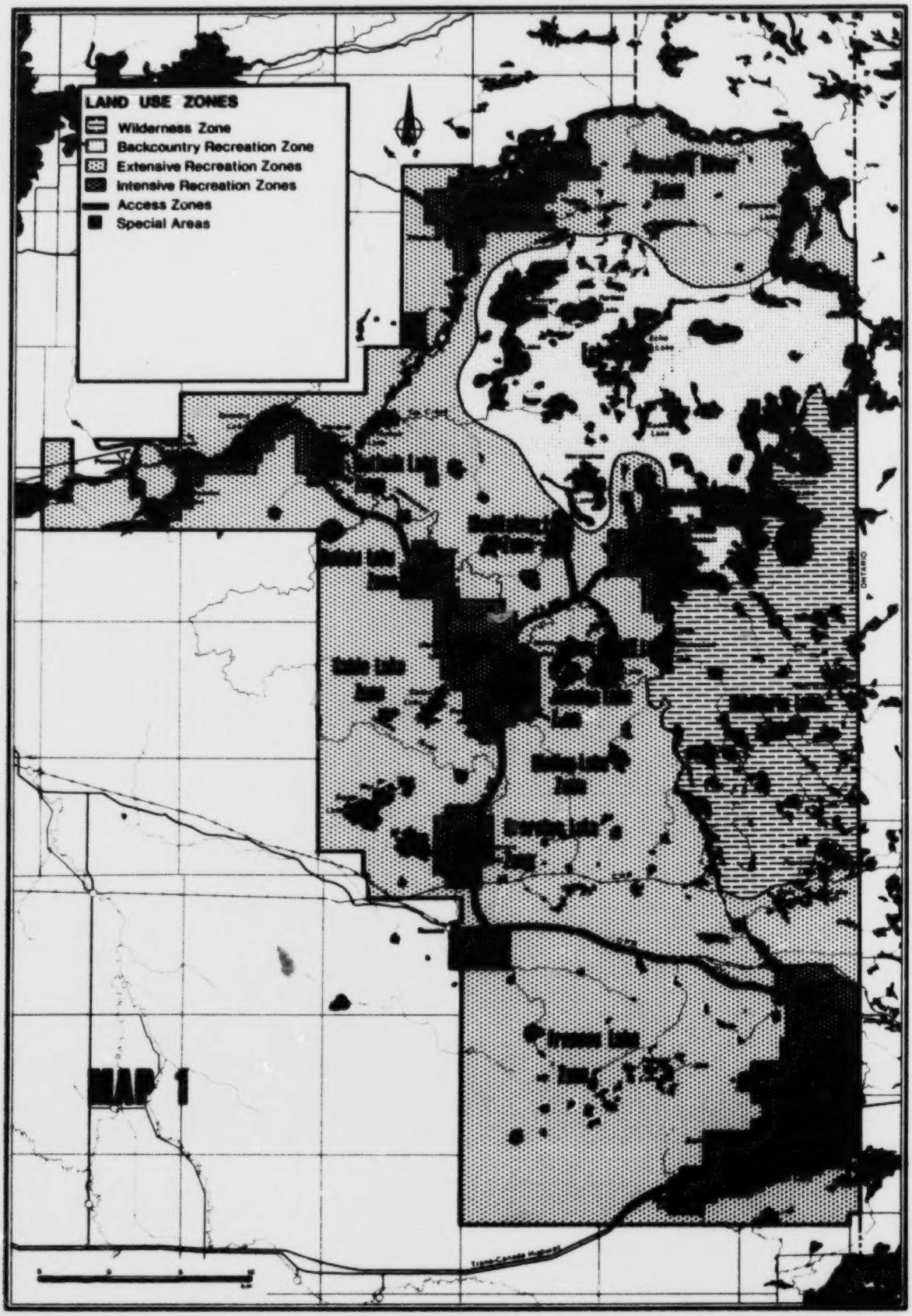
The plan deals with the review and possible revision of current regulations for camping, and a program of managed wilderness and back-country camping with intermittent patrols. The conversion of all cottage lots on park land to a leasehold system is encouraged, and the matter of permanent residency is clarified.

- Implementation

A schedule of implementation and phasing is provided to identify the sequence of delivery of programs identified in the plan.

WHITESHELL

2.0 Zoning


LAND USE ZONES
Wilderness Zone
Backcountry Recreation Zone
Extensive Recreation Zones
Intensive Recreation Zones
Access Zones
Special Areas
MAP 1

2.0 Zoning

Zoning is the means whereby the allocation, development and management of lands and resources are regulated. Five types of zones have been identified and designated for Whiteshell Provincial Park. These are a Wilderness Zone, a Backcountry Recreation Zone, Extensive Recreation Zones, Intensive Recreation Zones and Access Zones. In addition, there are 20 designated Special Areas representing significant natural and cultural resources. The land-use zones are shown in Map 1.

Activities or uses not expressly identified as permitted in a particular zone are excluded. Existing uses which do not conform to those permitted in a particular zone are regarded as nonconforming. Such uses will be limited to present levels of development or ultimately be displaced. Displacement will only occur, however, without undue hardship or disruption to current users. This means that present users may retain their rights and privileges throughout their lifetime or until such time as existing commitments are fulfilled.

The Whiteshell Provincial Park land-use zones are described below.

Whiteshell's Wilderness Zone, comprised of approximately 320 sq. km. or 12% of the park, is titled the Mantario Wilderness Zone. This zone is set aside for canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, primitive camping and other activities which do not require mechanized access.

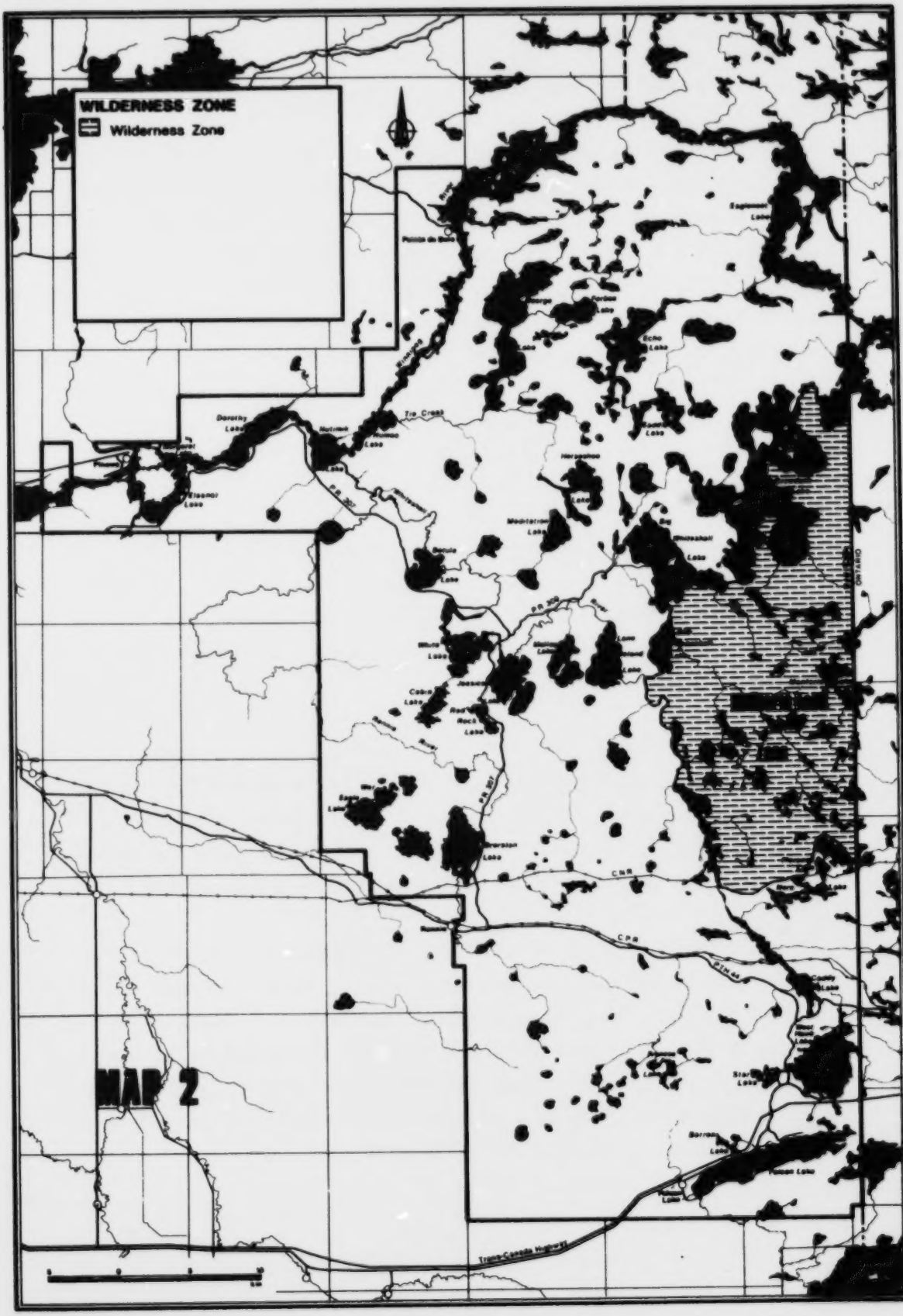
Fishing is permitted in the Mantario Zone; however, hunting is not. Intensive forms of recreational development such as cottaging, and the use of snowmobiles, motor-boats and aircraft for recreational purposes are also not permitted. Private group camps are non-conforming and no further expansion of this activity will be permitted in the zone.

Commercial resource harvesting in the Mantario Zone is non-conforming. Present commitments to trappers will be met in this zone. Trapping will be monitored in terms of impact on wilderness values over the term of present commitments. This will establish whether or not trapping should continue in the Mantario Wilderness Zone after present commitments are met.

Forestry and mining would be excluded from the zone. At present there are no commitments to forestry or mining. Based on existing information, the capability and potential for harvest or development of forest and mineral resources is low.

Specific applications for small-scale mineral exploration may be approved if it can be shown that the 'need to know' outweighs other considerations. Such operations would be subject to specific terms and conditions; approval of exploration would not infer approval of a mining operation. Proposals for the development of mineral resources will only be approved when it can be demonstrated that the benefits far exceed potential loss of inherent values in the zone.

The development of all-weather roads will not be permitted in the Mantario Wilderness Zone.


WILDERNESS ZONE
Wilderness Zone
MAP 2
Trans-Canada Highway
CNR
CPR

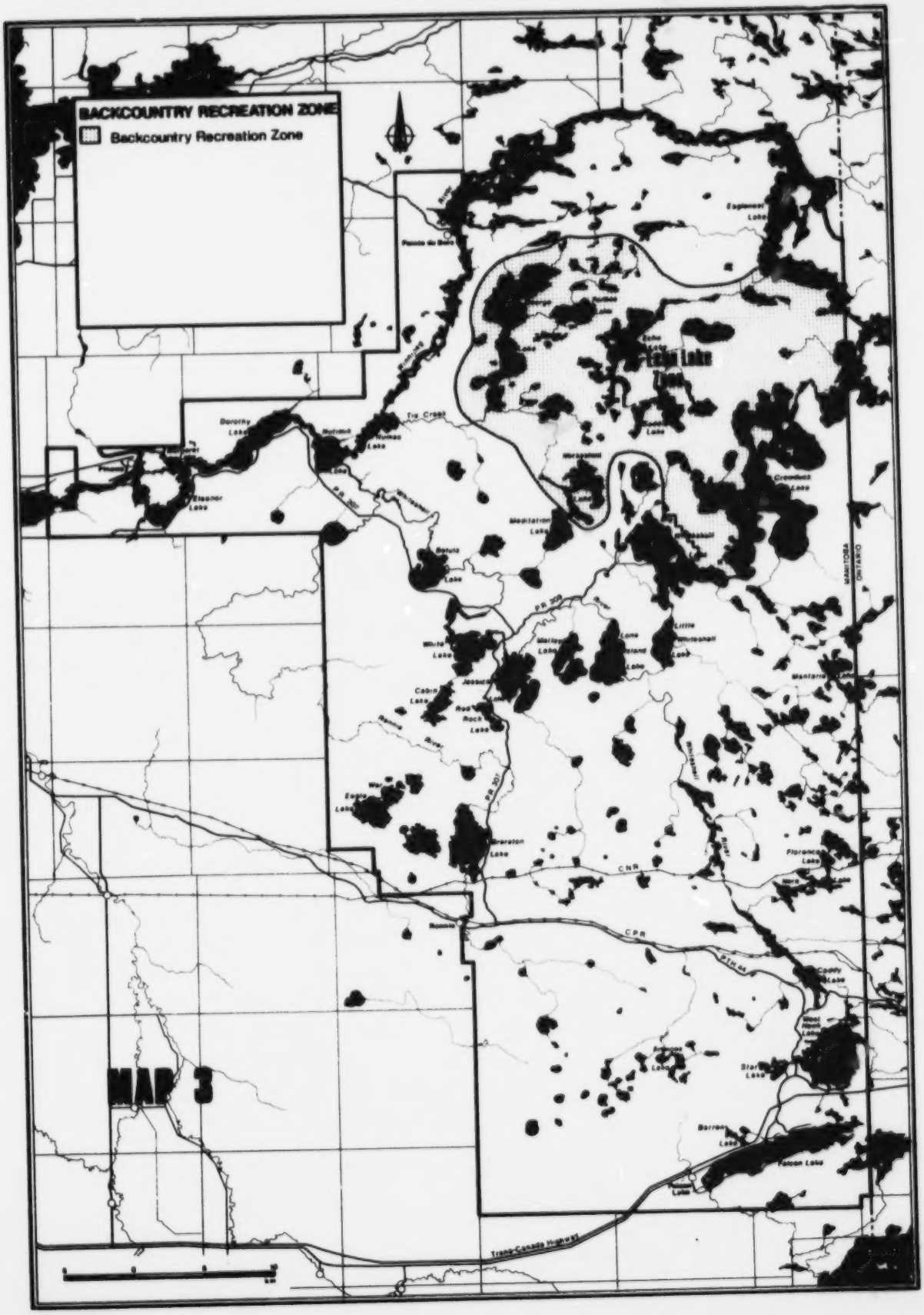
2.2 Backcountry Recreation Zone (Map 3)

The Echo Lake Backcountry Recreation Zone, extending over 420 sq. km. or 15% of the park area, encompasses Whiteshell's outstanding interior lakes: Crowduck, George, Echo, Forbes, Horseshoe and Saddle lakes. Generally, both motorized and non-motorized recreational activities are permitted in the Echo Lake Zone. Specifically, the use of float equipped aircraft and snowmobiles is permissible on the condition that use of snowmobiles be confined to designated sites and routes. The use of motor boats is common in this zone. The issuing of boat-cache permits for the general public, though not done at present, may be implemented in the future. Off-road use of vehicles such as jeeps and trucks other than by approved commercial operators is not permitted.

Water-access campsites and existing commercial recreational facilities such as tourist lodges, licenced boat caches and tent camps conform to the purpose of the zone. Cottages and private group camps, however, are non-conforming, and no further expansion of these will be permitted in this zone.

Fishing and hunting are permitted as are commercial resource activities such as forestry, trapping and wild-rice harvesting. Mining may also be permitted. The development of all-weather roads, however, will not be permitted within the Echo Lake Zone, to maintain the present atmosphere of isolation and related recreational experiences.

Any proposed forestry or mining operations will be subject to the above stipulation and to terms and conditions of permits to explore, develop or harvest. Such terms and conditions will be designed to ensure long-term protection of Special Areas, fish and wildlife habitat, and existing or potential recreational opportunities. All applications to explore for or develop minerals or harvest timber will be reviewed by the Parks Branch prior to the issuance of permits.


BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION ZONE
Backcountry Recreation Zone
MAP 3
Lake Lake
Trans-Canada Highway
CNR
CPR

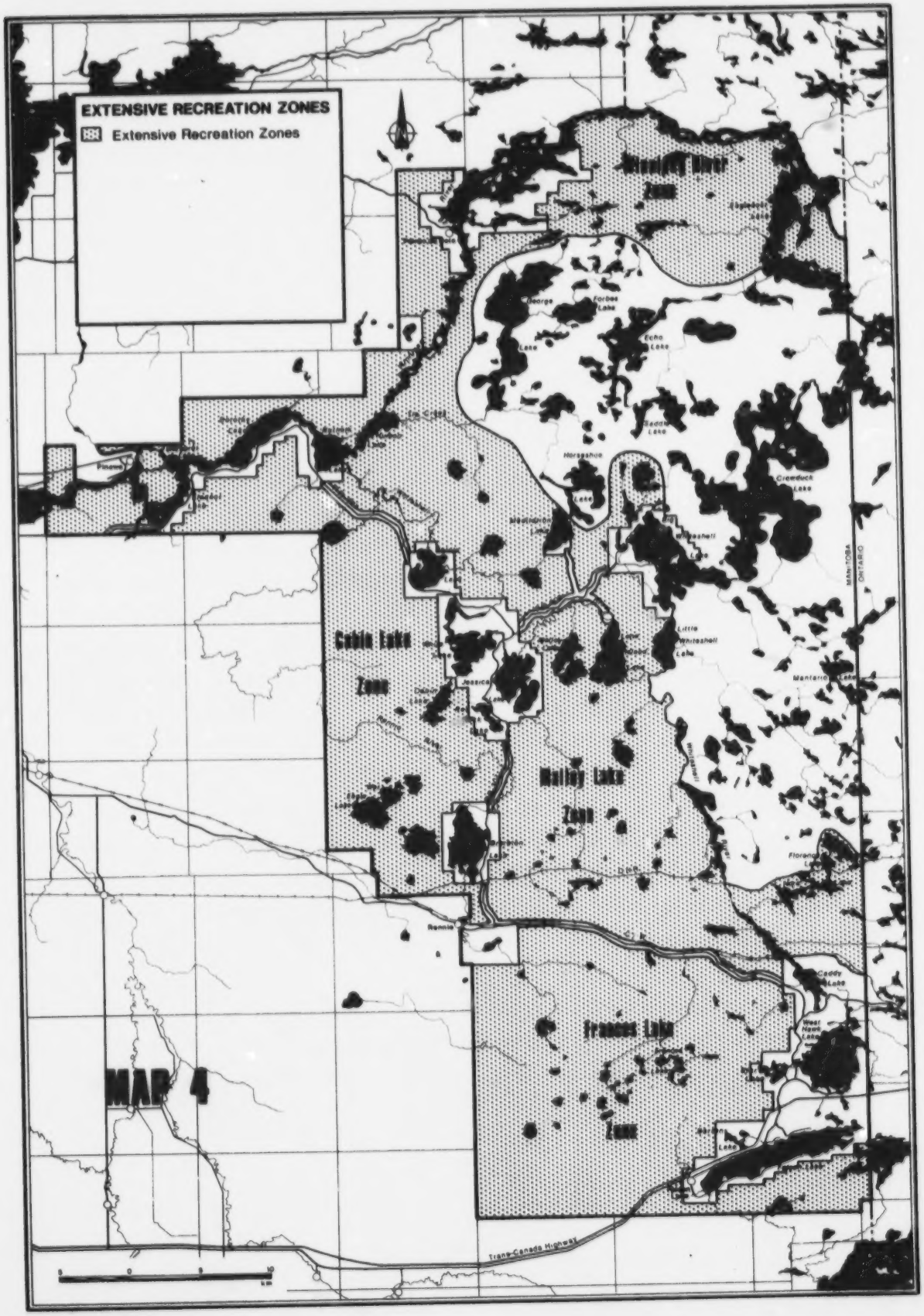
2.3 Extensive Recreation Zones (Map 4)

The four Extensive Recreation Zones in Whiteshell Provincial Park cover over 1,701 sq. km. or 62% of the park's total area. These zones are the Frances Lake Zone, the Malloy Lake Zone, the Cabin Lake Zone and the Winnipeg River Zone.

Generally, all recreational activities permitted in the Backcountry Zone are appropriate in Extensive Recreation Zones. Fishing and hunting are permitted with the exception of some specific restrictions for hunting in the Frances Lake Zone and in the Malloy Lake Zone (in the area south of the C.N.R. line up to the east shore of the Whiteshell River). The hunting of geese is not permitted in these areas to ensure greater protection of Canada Geese frequenting the Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary.

Generally, forestry and mining operations are permitted in Extensive Recreation Zones and all-weather roads may be developed in support of these activities. Any such operations will, however, be subject to terms and conditions of permits to explore, harvest or develop.

Trapping in Extensive Zones will be permitted to continue under prevailing management and regulation. Wild-rice harvesting will also be permitted to continue.


EXTENSIVE RECREATION ZONES
Extensive Recreation Zones
Cable Lake Zone
Bailey Lake Zone
Frances Lake Zone
MAP 4
Trans-Canada Highway
ONTARIO

2.4 Intensive Recreation Zones (Map 5)

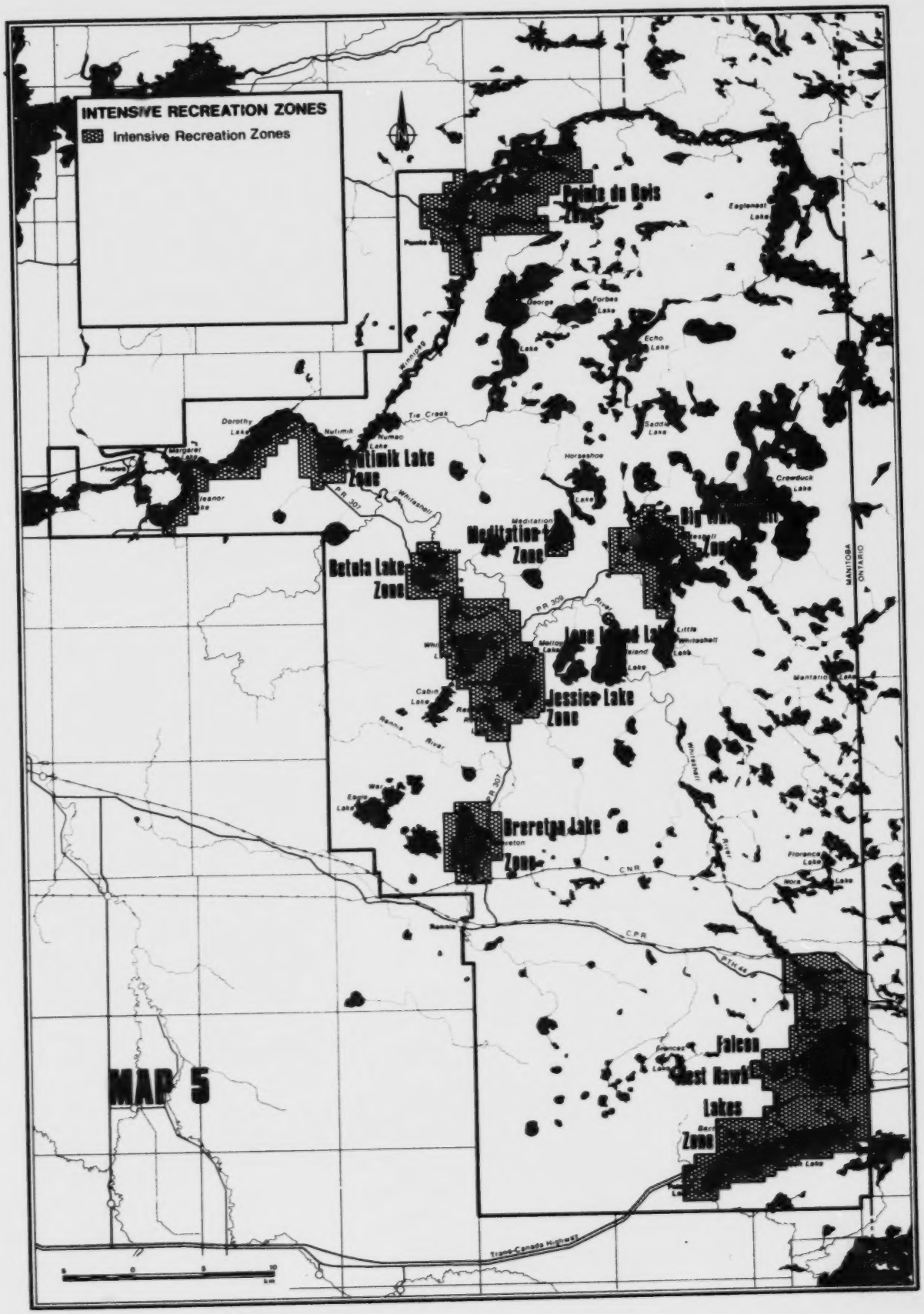
Nine Intensive Recreation Zones have been designated in Whiteshell Provincial Park, covering some 303 sq. km. or 10% of the park area. These zones encompass seven existing intensively developed areas and two localized sites.

The Intensive Recreation Zones identified in Whiteshell are

i. Falcon/West Hawk Lakes' Intensive Recreation Zone (which includes Falcon, West Hawk, Star and Caddy Lakes);
ii. Brereton Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
iii. Jessica Lake Intensive Recreation Zone (which includes White, Jessica and Red Rock Lakes);
iv. Meditation Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
v. Lone Island Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
vi. Big Whiteshell Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
vii. Betula Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
viii. Nutimik Lake Intensive Recreation Zone (which includes Eleanor, Dorothy and Nutimik Lakes) and
ix. Pointe du Bois Intensive Recreation Zone.

Existing cottage subdivisions, campgrounds of all types, day-use areas, commercial services such as stores, service stations and motels, and park maintenance and administrative facilities are permitted in these zones. Condominium development would not be permitted consistent with the final planning objectives.

Commercial air carriers are permitted to operate at designated locations in the Intensive Recreation Zones. The scheduling of flights will be regulated to resolve conflicts resulting from present operations of this type.


INTENSIVE RECREATION ZONES
Intensive Recreation Zones
Nutimik Lake Zone
Meditation Lake Zone
Betula Lake Zone
Jessica Lake Zone
Falcon West Hawk Lakes Zone
MAP 5
Trans-Canada Highway
C.N.R.
C.P.R.
MANITOBA
ONTARIO

Small-scale forestry and mining operations may be permitted subject to special terms and conditions formulated through a review of applications for permits. Terms and conditions will ensure that primary recreational values are not compromised, operations are not aesthetically offensive to other users, and Special Areas, streams, lakeshores and critical fish and wildlife habitat are not impaired.

Trapping and wild-rice harvesting will also be permitted subject to conditions which prevent or minimize conflicts with recreational use. Hunting for waterfowl only will be permitted in Intensive Recreation Zones. Seasons will be established in the late fall, generally in the period from mid-October to mid-November.

2.5 Access Zones

Access Zones in Whiteshell Provincial Park consist of a 300 metre corridor on either side of the centre line of major highways and roads linking the Intensive Recreation Zones within the park. These zones are the Trans-Canada Highway, Provincial Trunk Highway 44, Provincial Roads 307 and 309, and access roads to Meditation and Lone Island Lakes.

Development and maintenance of park thoroughfares, or parkways, is the responsibility of the Department of Highways. This Department is currently reviewing portions of these parkways as part of an upgrading program.

Three types or classes of parkway have been identified in the Whiteshell Access Zones. Design guidelines and standards have been prepared for each zone and these will be used for future upgrading and to improve recreational experiences.[1]

Wayside picnic or camping facilities, water-access sites, commercial services such as service stations, and scenic viewpoints, trails and administrative and service facilities (e.g. refuse disposal sites) are permitted in these zones.

Forestry will be permitted on a very selective basis for the primary purpose of enhancing regeneration of forest stands adjacent to the road. Trapping and wild-rice harvesting are also permitted, subject to conditions which will prevent or minimize conflicts with recreational use. With the exception of sand and gravel removal, mineral explorations and development are not permitted. Hunting is not permitted in Access Zones.

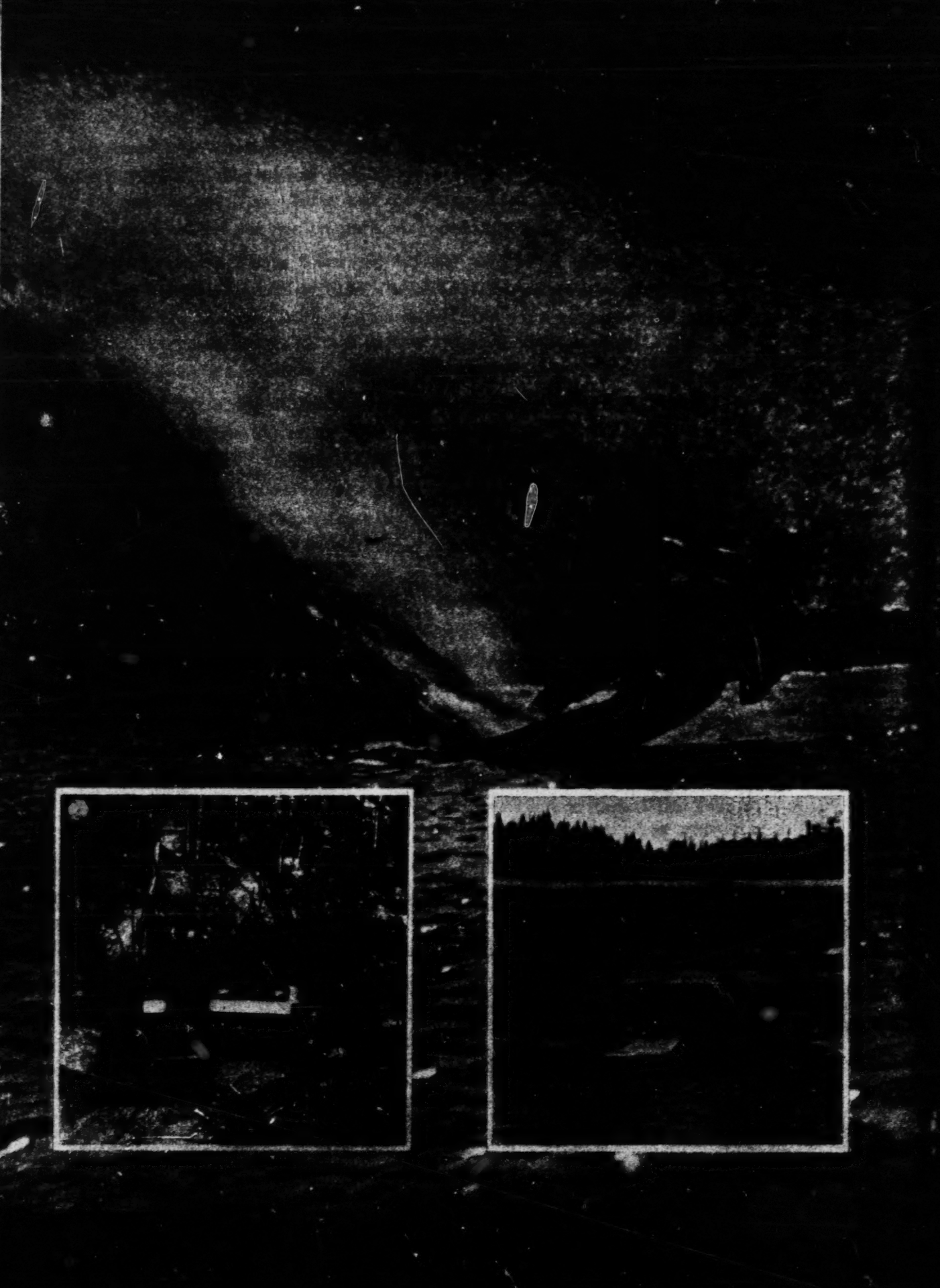
2.6 Special Areas

Twenty Special Areas which contain biological, geological or human heritage resources of regional, Provincial and national significance are designated in this plan. Generally, Special Areas may be designated within any of the above-mentioned zones and vary in size from nesting sites of bald eagles, to prehistoric rock petroforms, to representative floral and faunal communities.

Many significant resources such as archaeological sites remain unidentified, while others, such as nesting sites, may change in number and location over time. Thus, it will be necessary to continuously update designations of Special Areas. A target of 1% of the park area within this category has been established.

Facilities for interpretation of Special Areas may be provided, but commercial resource use will not be permitted to encroach upon or occur within Special Areas.

1. Hilderman, Feir, Witty and Associates, **Whiteshell Provincial Park's Main Thoroughfares and Park Entrances: A Background Study for the Whiteshell Park Master Planning Program.** Prepared for the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, Parks Branch. (Winnipeg: Hilderman, Feir, Witty and Associates, 1980).



3.0 Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities and programs are outlined below by zone. Trails and designated campsites will be developed in conjunction with selected lakes and canoe routes in the Wilderness, Backcountry and Extensive Recreation Zones.

Minor expansion and reallocation of campsites among different users are emphasized in presently developed Intensive Recreations Zones. Further opportunities for camping will be provided in the Big Whiteshell, Pointe du Bois and Meditation Lake zones.

3.1 Mantario Wilderness Zone

In accordance with the purpose of this zone to provide opportunities for non-motorized recreational experiences, the following will be implemented.

i. The Mantario Lake Trail will be extended to form a shorter return loop in the southern portion of the zone just north of the railroad.

ii. a canoe route will be developed linking the Whiteshell River with Mantario via Brant, Bernard and Indian Lakes;

iii. warm-up shelters will be established along cross-country ski trails in the zone; and

iv. designated campsites will be located as necessary along hiking and canoe routes.

3.2 Backcountry and Extensive Recreation Zones

Additional facilities in these zones are identified as follows.

i. A hiking trail will be constructed in the Echo Lake Backcountry Zone to join Big Whiteshell Lake with Crowduck, Meditation, Saddle, Echo, Forbes and George Lakes;

ii. a hiking trail will be constructed in the Cabin Lake Extensive Recreation Zone to link Cabin, White and Red Rock Lakes; and

iii. designated remote campsites will be provided along the Whiteshelll River and at George, Crowduck and Eaglenest Lakes.

3.3 Intensive Recreation Zones

General development and improvement programs for facilities and services in these zones are as follows.

i. The ongoing landscape improvement programs for the purposes of site definition and buffering will be continued in all transient campgrounds, trailer villages and seasonal camping areas;

ii. improvements to and provision of such services as electricity, modern washrooms and showers will be made, subject to an evaluation of costs, and the type and condition of such service currently provided.

In addition to these general programs the following initiatives have been identified for the individual zones.

3.3.1 Falcon/West Hawk Lakes Intensive Recreation Zone

Detailed plans will be formulated for the Falcon Lake and West Hawk Lake Recreational Villages. These plans will formally delineate village boundaries, establish specific land-use zones, identify areas where expansion of facilities and services may occur and provide guidelines for local administration. Alternative methods to fund capital improvements and to meet operational requirements will also be identified.

An experimental bicycle trail following P.R. 301 between Falcon and West Hawk Lakes will be developed, since considerable interest has been shown in the provision of such routes within the park.

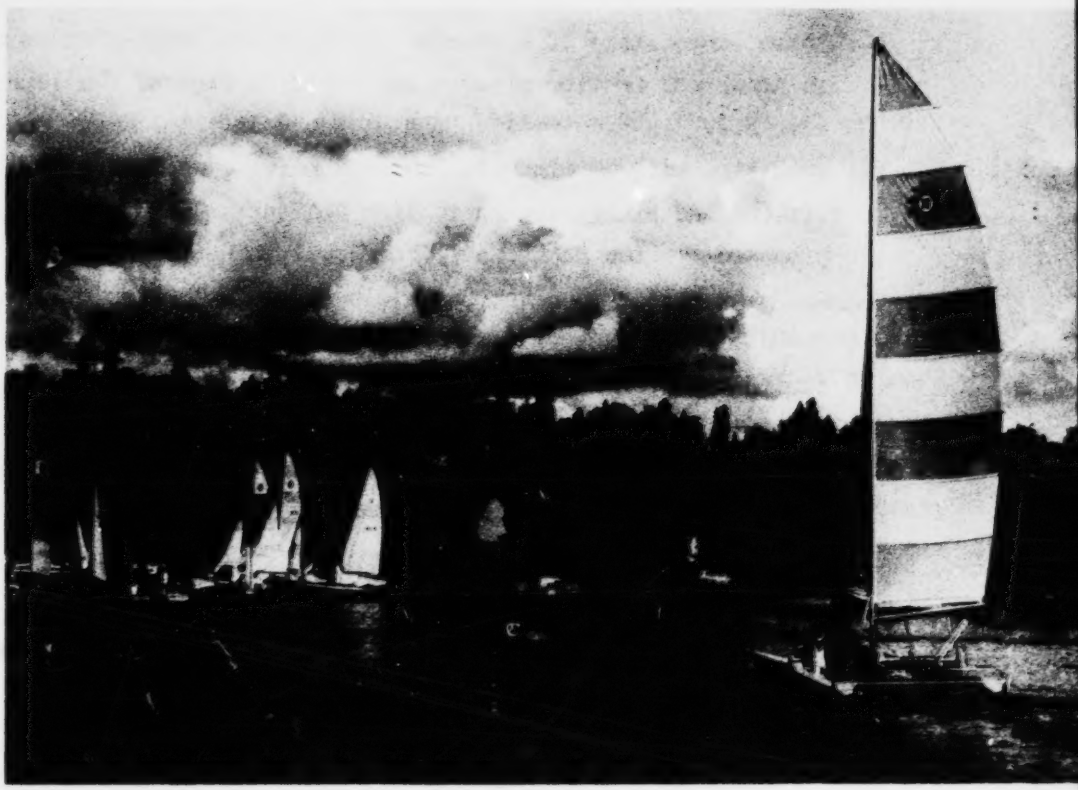
Specific programs for camping in this intensive zone include the following.

i. West Hawk Lake: The 57 transient campsites in the trailer village will be reallocated for seasonal camping.

ii. Falcon Lake (Toniata): The 22 transient campsites will be incorporated into the seasonal campground.

iii. Falcon Lake (Trailer Village): The 45 transient campsites will be reallocated for seasonal camping.

iv. Border Reception Campground: This 40-site campground will be maintained, however, dependent upon use levels it may be reduced in size or possibly phased out.



3.3.2 Brereton Lake Intensive Recreation Zone

This campground currently provides 31 transient campsites and 57 seasonal campsites. Through redevelopment the overall capacity will be slightly reduced from the present number of 88 to 75 campsites. Coupled with this redevelopment, the area will be allocated to seasonal camping only.

3.3.3 Jessica Lake Intensive Recreation Zone

A 45-unit campground is located at White Lake. The overall capacity of this site will be maintained, as will the present mix of 30 seasonal and 15 transient campsites.

3.3.4 Meditation Lake Intensive Recreation Zone

The existing road access will be upgraded and 150 transient campsites will be developed on Meditation Lake. The initial development phase, consisting of approximately 50 units, will feature a short walk-in trail and tenting sites established in view of the lake wherever possible. In keeping with the concept for this campground, modern amenities will be minimal. Powered boating on Meditation Lake will be limited and hiking trails to link Meditation Lake with the trails proposed for the Backcountry Zone will be developed.

The option to develop vehicle-access campsites will be retained. These may be incorporated in later development phases dependent upon the public's response to this new type of camping opportunity.

3.3.5 Big Whiteshell Intensive Recreation Zone

i. Big Whiteshell Lake (Old Campground - North Shore):
The 20-site seasonal campground will be maintained.

ii. Big Whiteshell Lake (Proposed):
The development of a 100-site seasonal campground is proposed.

iii. Big Whiteshell Lake (New Campground - West Shore):
Following the development of the proposed seasonal campground the existing 92 seasonal campsites will be reallocated and when combined with present transient campsites will provide a total of 150 sites.

General improvements will be made to parking and boat-launching facilities since Big Whiteshell Lake is a point of access to both the Backcountry and Wilderness Zones.

3.3.6 Betula Lake Intensive Recreation Zone

The present mixture of seasonal and transient sites will be retained. A total of 22 seasonal sites and up to 23 transient sites will be provided.

3.3.7 Nutimik Lake Intensive Recreation Zone

i. Nutimik Lake (New):
Seasonal and transient camping will continue to be provided at this site. Seventeen of the total 146 sites are allocated to seasonal camping.

ii. Nutimik Lake (Old):
The 98 site seasonal campground will be maintained at its present capacity.

3.3.8 Pointe du Bois Intensive Recreation Zone

An additional 100 units of camping will be provided in this zone through the redevelopment of existing sites and the establishment of new areas. Facilities will be managed to provide both seasonal and transient camping opportunities. Similar to the Big Whiteshell Zone, the Pointe du Bois Zone will function as a staging area for access into remote sections of the park.

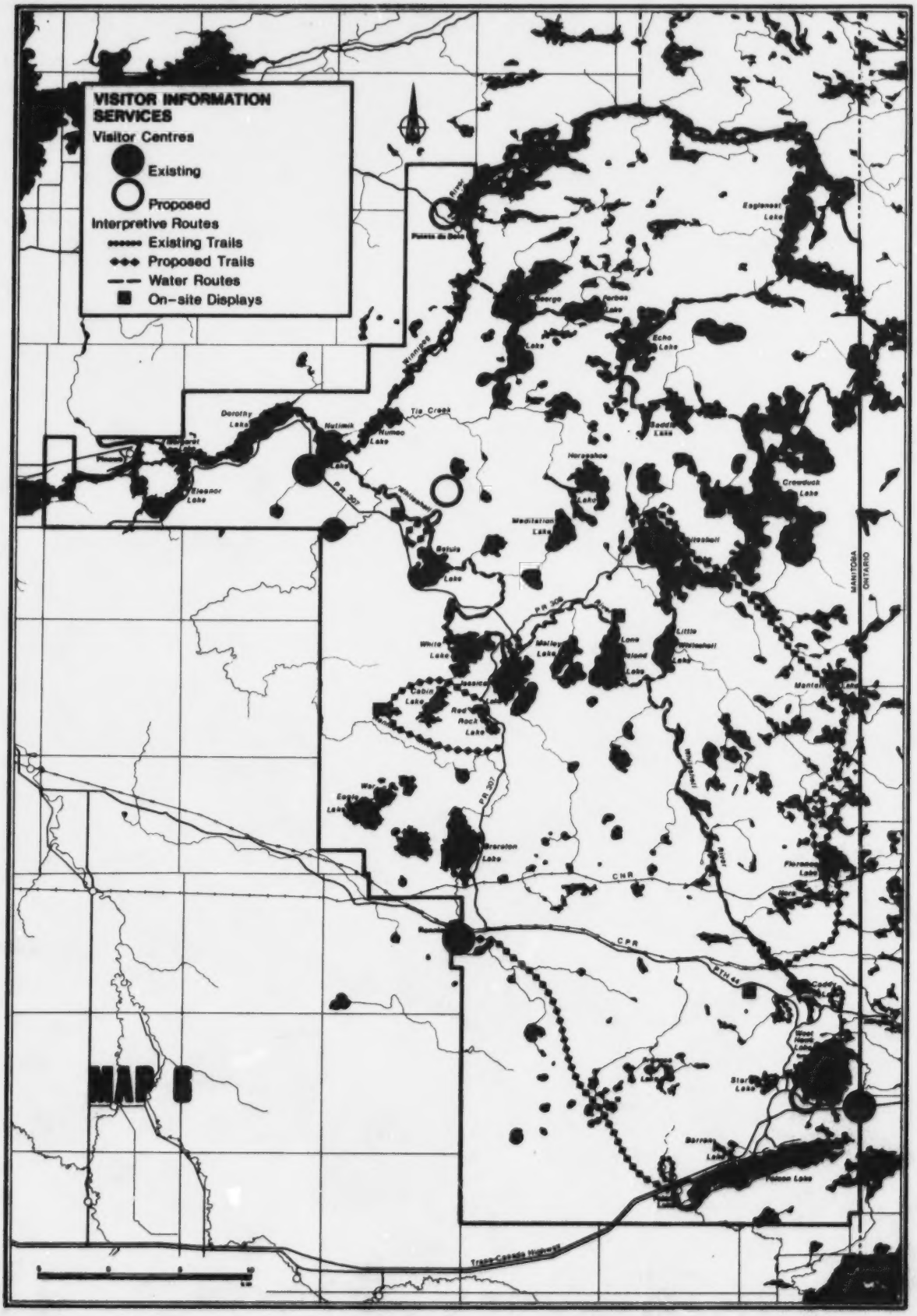
The program of recreational facilities identifies two major initiatives. The first is reallocation and limited expansion of campsites to improve the overall efficiency of the campground system, to separate conflicting user-groups and to generally improve site conditions. The second is the development of additional camping opportunities in the Meditation, Pointe du Bois, and Big Whiteshell Recreation Zones.

Table I illustrates the total number of existing sites in each campground and proposed changes in capacities. Also shown are the types of camping opportunities to be provided. The transition from one type of camping opportunity to another in existing campgrounds will be carefully managed to respond to public needs, to reflect changing travel patterns and to ensure minimal inconvenience to park users. It should be noted that the capacities proposed are subject to revision based on detailed site assessments and public demand.

TABLE I
CAMPING FACILITIES PROGRAM IN THE INTENSIVE RECREATION ZONES

Zone	Site	Number of Camping Sites			Type of Camping			
		Existing	Proposed	Change	T	S	T & S	TV
FALCON-WEST HAWK LAKES	West Hawk Campground	161	161	0	●			
	West Hawk Trailer Village	145	145	0		●		●
	Falcon Lake Beach	292	292	0	●			
	Falcon Lake Lakeshore	165	165	0	●			
	Falcon Lake Beaver Creek	150	150	0	●			
	Falcon Lake Toniata	80	80	0		●		
	Falcon Lake Trailer Village	95	95	0		●		●
	Border Reception Campground	40	40	0	●			
	Caddy Lake	26	26	0	●			
BRERETON LAKE	Brereton Lake	88	75	-13		●		
JESSICA LAKE	White Lake	45	45	0			●	
BIG WHITESHELL	Big Whiteshell (Old)	20	20	0		●		
	Big Whiteshell (New)	150	150	0	●			
	Big Whiteshell (Proposed)	0	100	+100		●		
MEDITATION LAKE	Meditation Lake	0	150	+150	●			
LONE ISLAND LAKE	Lone Island Lake	99	99	0	●			
BETULA LAKE	Betula Lake	45	45	0			●	
NUTIMIK LAKE	Nutimik (Old)	98	98	0		●		
	Nutimik (New)	146	146	0			●	
	Otter Falls	70	70	0	●			
	Opapiskaw	85	85	0	●			
	Dorothy Lake	42	42	0				●
POINTE DU BOIS	Winnipeg River	45	145	+100			●	
	TOTAL	2037	2424	+337				

SYMBOLS
T - Transient Campground
S - Seasonal Campground
T & S - Transient & Seasonal Campground
TV - Trailer Village


VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES
Visitor Centres
Existing
Proposed
Interpretive Routes
Existing Trails
Proposed Trails
Water Routes
On-site Displays
MAP 6
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
CNR
CPR
Trans-Canada Highway
PR 307
PTH 44

4.0 Visitor Services

The functions of visitor services are twofold: orientation and interpretation. The purpose of orientation is to make visitors aware of the range of facilities and services available in the park. Interpretation helps visitors to understand the significance of the park's features.

Many different user-groups--campers, cottagers, day-users, concession operators, school and special groups, backcountry users--require information about the park and make use of interpretive facilities and programs. The various methods used to convey information include brochures, maps, informative signs, displays, audio-visual presentations in visitor centres, specially designed trails and personal communication.

Development of interpretive facilities and programs in Whiteshell will be guided by four general themes. Since Whiteshell has the most significant remains of ancient native cultures of any park in the Provincial system, wherever appropriate these themes will be interpreted in terms of native culture and influence.

The general Whiteshell interpretive themes are as follows.

i. Natural History Themes, e.g. flora, fauna, and geology;

ii. Cultural History Themes, e.g. human history of the park;

iii. Institutional Themes, e.g. resource management, ethics of backcountry use and campground management; and

iv. Contemporary Themes, e.g. park planning.

The specific interpretive facilities and programs for Whiteshell Provincial Park are shown in Map 6 and are detailed below.

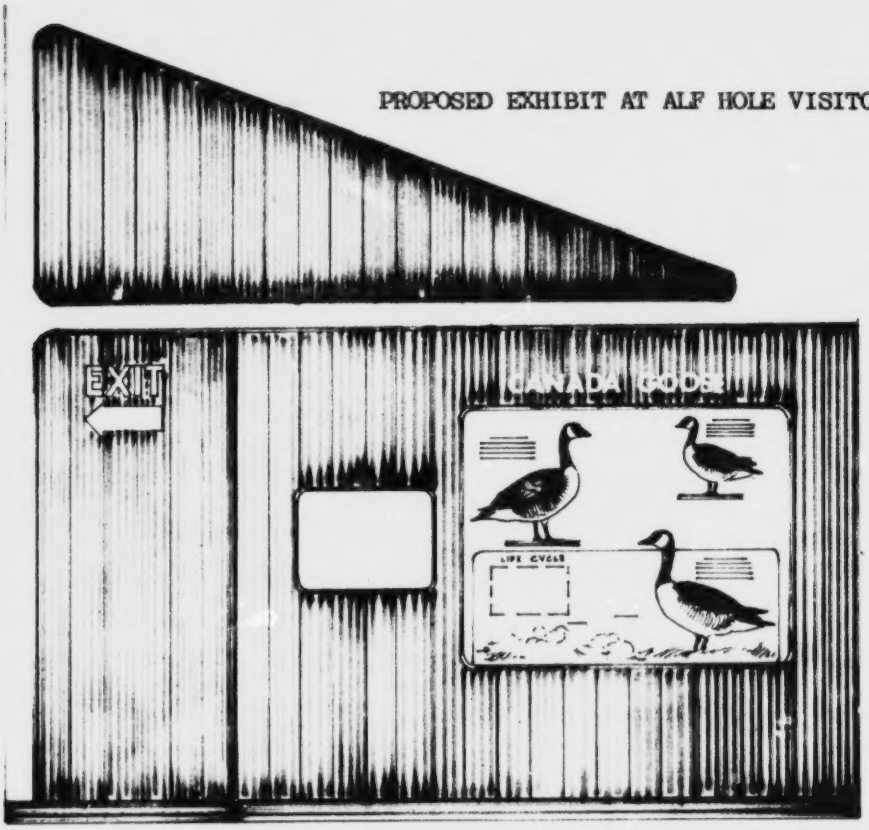
4.1 Visitor Centres

There are three visitor centres in Whiteshell Provincial Park: The Alfred Hole Visitor Centre, the Nutimik Museum and the Border Reception Centre. Four more centres are proposed--at West Hawk Lake, Falcon Lake, Pointe du Bois, and Tie Creek.

The themes and methods for presentation at these locations are as follows.

FIGURE 1

PROPOSED EXHIBIT AT ALF HOLE VISITOR CENTRE



i. Alfred Hole Visitor Centre

Themes: (1) The history of Alfred Hole and of the sanctuary.
(2) Canada geese, waterfowl and extinction of species.
(3) Habitat management.

Displays, brochures, audio-visual presentations and mounted specimens will be some of the media used in this centre. A self-guiding trail and observation decks will increase the visitors' opportunities to see waterfowl.

Since the Alf Hole Visitor Centre is located at an entrance to the park information will be available on other interpretive facilities and the park in general. Figure 2 is the conceptual site plan for the Alf Hole Visitor Centre and park entrance at Rennie.

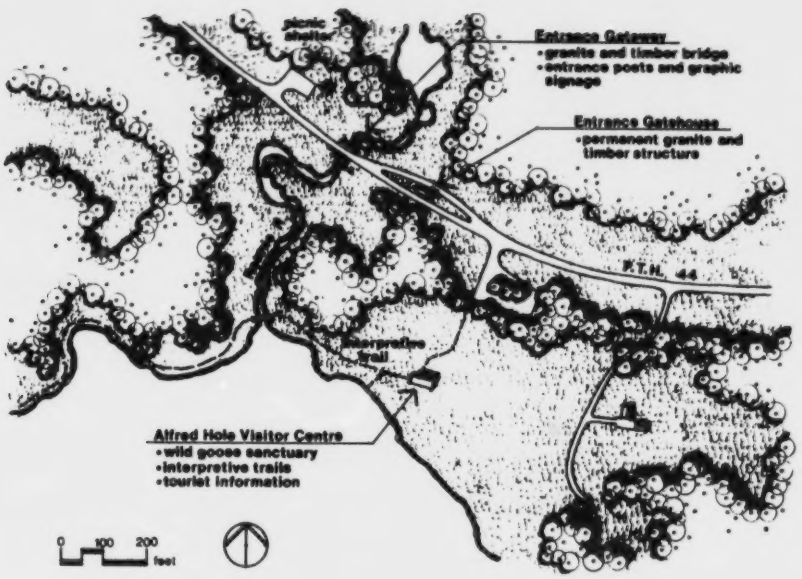


FIGURE 2

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

ALF HOLE VISITOR CENTRE AND PARK ENTRANCE

ii. Nutimik Museum

Themes: (1) The history of the conservation ethic from 1900 to the present.

(2) Backcountry recreation.

Exhibits, maps, mounted specimens, brochures and audio-visual presentations will be some of the media used to convey this aspect of the park's story.

The conservation ethics of the Forties will be communicated through the use of mounted specimens while those of today will be illustrated by means of audio-visual presentation. A self-guiding trail will be located nearby.

Since this centre is on the main route through northern Whiteshell it will provide orientation to other interpretive facilities in the park.

iii. Falcon Lake Visitor Centre

Themes: (1) Recreational skills.

(2) The representative and rare or unique flora and fauna of Whiteshell, e.g. the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Forest Region, unique fungus, the black bear and the snapping turtle.

(3) Park management, e.g. responsibilities of the Parks Branch and the park user.

The methods used to interpret these themes will include displays, diagrams, brochures, skill-demonstrations and audio-visual presentations. In conjunction with the existing Border Reception Centre this centre will familiarize visitors with the Provincial Park System and its management. While the Border Reception Centre will present a general overview of the park system, much greater detail on Whiteshell will be provided at the Falcon Lake Centre.

In addition, two self-guiding trails will focus on recreational skills for summer and winter and on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Forest Theme, respectively.

iv. West Hawk Ranger's Cabin Visitor Centre

Themes: (1) The history of the Provincial Park System

(2) Resource management in Whiteshell

(3) Glaciology, local geology and the history of mineral exploration in Whiteshell.

Audio-visual presentations and exhibits will be the primary media used to interpret the glaciological and geological features of the southern part of Whiteshell and the area of West Hawk Lake. Two interpretive trails near the centre will complement these themes.

v. Tie Creek Visitor Centre

Themes: (1) Native life-styles, world perspective, religion and values.

(2) Problem-solving across cultures.

The Tie Creek petroforms in the northern area of Whiteshell are an internationally significant cultural resource. Preservation of the petroforms is of paramount importance and continuing research is essential to provide detailed inventory and recording of the site. Prior to development a detailed plan will be prepared in consultation with elders in the native community, researchers, archaeologists and anthropologists.

The concept envisaged for the centre differs from the more traditional approach to interpreting native lifestyle. It may be possible to use more sophisticated technology, films, drama and role-playing events to deal with the world-view and life-style of these first peoples of Manitoba. By gaining an understanding of his daily aspirations, his values and attitudes towards his family, his concept of time, his ownership of goods and the regulating mechanisms of his social system, the visitor to the centre will benefit from a much greater appreciation of the native's culture. A self-guided trail will give the visitor an opportunity to experience and apply some of these concepts.

vi. Pointe du Bois Visitor Centre

Themes: (1) Outdoor recreation skills--passive and active.

(2) The Winnipeg River--hydrology, ecology and hydro-electric development.

(3) The fur trade--transformation of the wilderness.

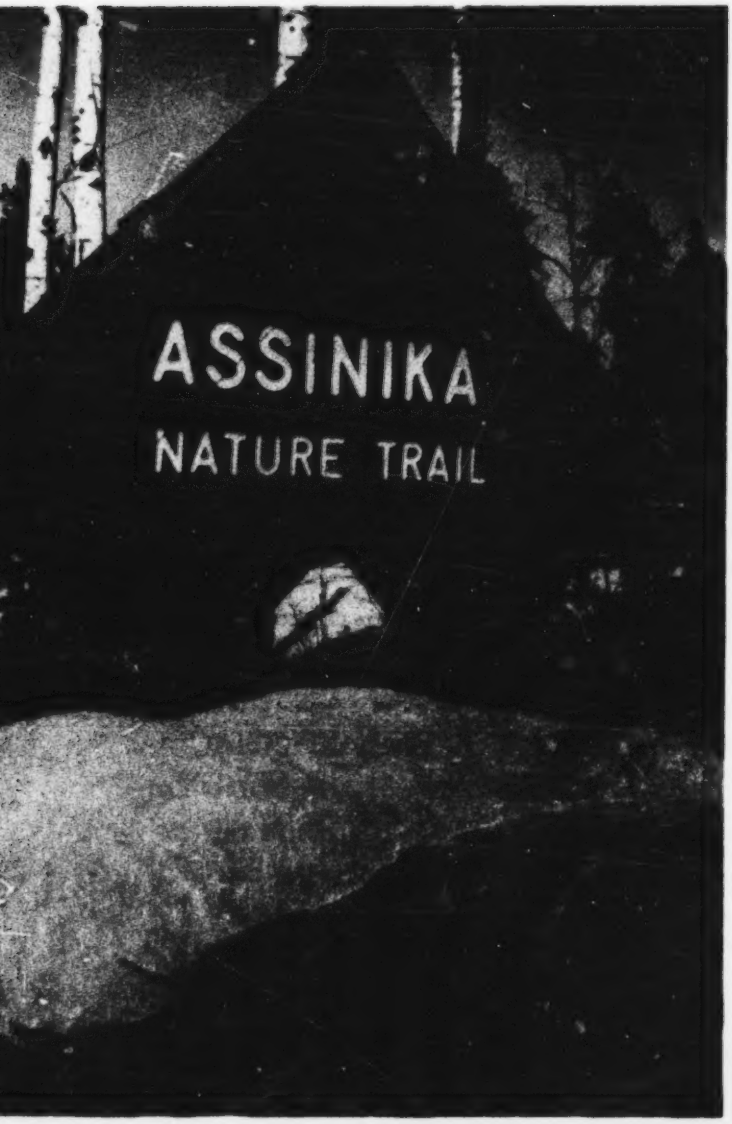
This visitor centre near the Pointe du Bois townsite will inform and instruct visitors on a variety of both passive and active recreational activities ranging from photography and sketching to river navigation, power boating and orienteering. Displays, audio-visual presentations and brochures will be used to develop the themes of hydrology and history of the Winnipeg River during the fur-trade era, the hydro-electric development in the early 1900's and up to the present time.

4.2 Trails

The three existing interpretive trails—Assinika, Beaver Creek and McGillivray—will be upgraded.

In addition to the trails associated with visitor centres, several new self-guiding interpretive trails and explanatory brochures for some existing hiking trails will be provided.

i. A trail focusing on the Whiteshell River will interpret the effects of water regulation on aquatic flora and fauna.



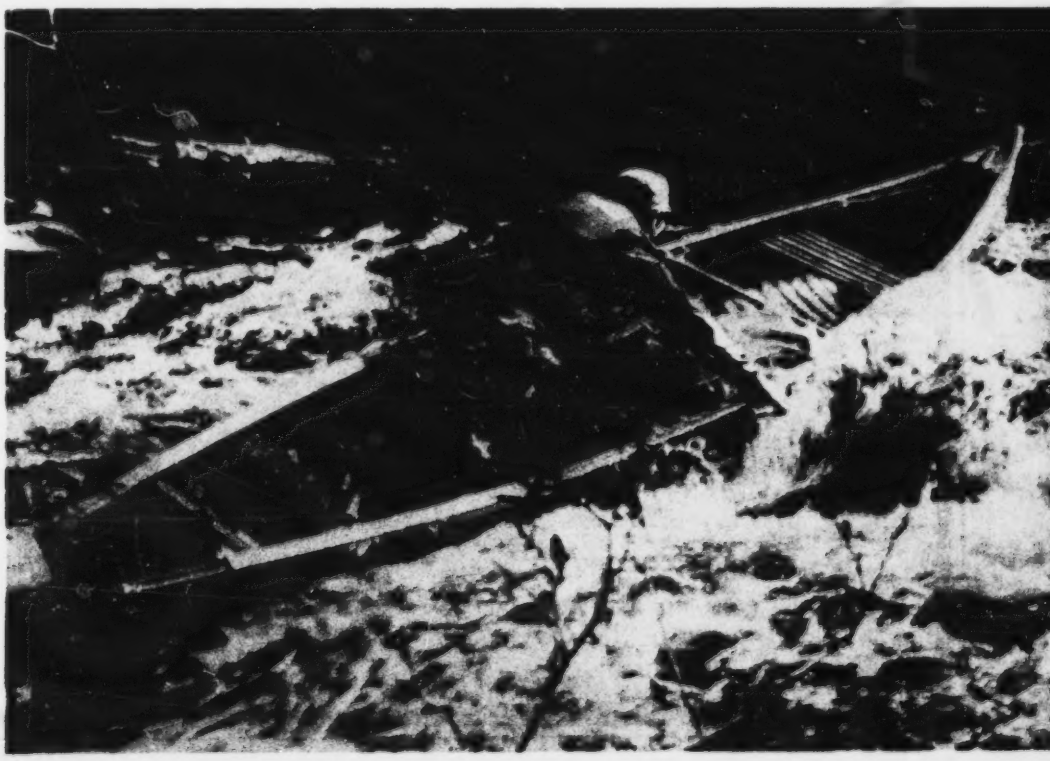
ii. A trail at Pine Point will interpret the predominant flora and fauna in the area in terms of adaptation and energy cycles.

iii. The hiking/skiing trail proposed in the Cabin Lake Extensive Recreation Zone will be used to interpret the unusual "pothole" drilling site. A display will explain the formation of these unique glacial features.

iv. An interpretive brochure will be prepared for the Mantario Hiking Trail.

The establishment of such facilities as observation towers, will enhance opportunities for viewing wildlife. The use of infra-red lighting along the southern end of the trail may be available on an experimental basis during specific programs to aid in observing and photographing nocturnal animals.

v. A descriptive brochure on the snowmobile trail from Falcon Lake to Rennie will be prepared. The contents will include a discussion of survival and winter ecology.



4.3 Canoe and Boating Routes

Interpretive brochures and navigational guides are proposed for the Whiteshell River from Caddy to Lone Island and Nutimik Lakes, the Crowduck-Echo-George Lakes routes and the Winnipeg River.

The brochure on the Whiteshell River route will describe techniques of canoe-camping and general features along the route, and will be developed primarily for novice canoeists. Brochures for the other routes will describe natural and cultural features and will deal with water safety.

4.4 Amphitheatres

A portable amphitheatre will be developed to provide interpretive shows at campgrounds such as Opapiskow, White Lake and Brereton Lake. A series of six audio-visual presentations on the park themes will be produced.

4.5 Low-wattage Radio

The feasibility of introducing a low-wattage radio broadcast system and a test program in the area of Falcon and West Hawk lakes and along P.T.H. 44 will be pursued. This system will orient visitors to park services and facilities.

4.6 Signing and Displays

The conversion of signing along park highways to a uniform park standard will be continued. All aspects of signing will be covered in this program.

In addition, a number of special signs and/or displays will be developed at specified locations.

i. A display will describe the "floating fen" at Heart Lake.

ii. A display at either Lone Island Lake or White Lake will deal with the ecology of wild rice and its use by man and wildlife. In co-operation with rice harvesters demonstrations of traditional harvesting techniques may be provided.

iii. An informative sign will discuss geology and aquatic flora at the Lily Pond.

iv. A display at Bannock Point will introduce native petroforms and discuss their susceptibility to disturbance.

v. An informative sign at Greer Lake will explain the minerology of the site.

4.7 Co-ordination with Private and Public Groups and Agencies

Park literature will be made widely available in stores, lodges and restaurants to improve visitors' awareness of opportunities. Additional promotional materials will be prepared in co-operation with operators of commercial recreational facilities to advertise activities during different seasons. Recreational activity packages will be developed to highlight those complementary facilities and services that would attract visitors.

Regular public service announcements will be broadcast on radio to provide up-to-date information on conditions in the park.

4.8 Personal Contact

Information which is communicated personally by Parks' staff is a very important component of the information program. By means of increased training programs on hospitality and about the park in general, staff will have a greater awareness of personal-contact potential and of the range of facilities and services of interest to others.

5.0 Resource Management

Management programs and procedures relating to water, fish vegetation, wildlife, minerals and cultural heritage sites will both ensure the protection and facilitate the use of these resources.

Identification and detailed documentation of Special Areas in a separate catalogue will be an ongoing process. This information will be used in the review of all applications respecting the commercial use and harvesting of the park's resources.

Management programs, guidelines and procedures are discussed as follows.

5.1 Water

Many of Whiteshell's lakes are poorly equipped to handle influxes of such eutrophic agents as phosphorus and nitrogen. The addition of such agents, primarily from ineffective disposal of sewage and waste water, will reduce water quality.

To alleviate water-quality problems now and in the future, a program for inspection of sewage disposal systems will be established with the co-operation of the Environmental Management Division. Current studies by this Division, and public information programs to increase awareness of water quality will be continued in Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Where ineffective sewage systems are identified, replacement or conversion to an approved system will be required. Where necessary, the size or number of lagoons would be increased to accommodate an increased volume of effluent. In addition, existing centralized sewage systems will be brought up to standards established by the Clean Environment Commission.

Finally, the overall level of development of any particular water body will be dependant on both environmental carrying capacity and spatial or safety considerations, e.g. for motorboats. Generally, no additional development will be recommended on lakes where measurements of capacity indicate the absence of developmental capability.

5.2 Fish

Management for the maintenance and/or enhancement of opportunities for sport fishing will be emphasized in the Intensive Recreation Zones and will in general, involve habitat improvement and protection and stocking programs. In the other park zones fisheries management will be directed toward maintaining stocks of self-propagating sportfish species.

Habitat improvement may include the removal of debris or other obstacles to fish migration, provision of facilities for the passage of fish at water-control structures and improvement of spawning and nursery areas. Habitat protection will be concerned primarily with spawning streams and other critical habitats. In this context, developmental projects and cultural activities will be evaluated and controlled as necessary based on existing criteria, standards and practices. Habitat monitoring will be primarily at critical areas in the Intensive Recreation Zones.

Trout-stocking programs will be continued in existing designated trout waters and, where feasible, will be expanded to small accessible lakes. The stocking of walleye and other warm-water sport species will be considered, and to improve the success of stocking the possibilty of developing rearing ponds for walleye will be investigated.

To reduce the probability of introducing undesirable non-native species into Whiteshell, the ban on the use of live-bait fish will be continued.

Regulations pertaining to sport fishing are reviewed annually, and may be adjusted occasionally to ensure maintenance and enhancement of fishing opportunities.

5.3. Vegetation

Management of vegetation in Whiteshell Provincial Park will emphasize both the protection of significant and representative floral communities and the improvement of vegetation on developed sites.

Representative examples of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Forest Region and each of the major floral communities in the park will be designated as Special Areas, and will be managed to ensure their continued integrity.

To ensure the long-term health and vigour of vegetation in developed sites, e.g. campgrounds and day-use areas, a variety of techniques will be applied. One such technique is the development of surfaced walkways for pedestrian traffic. Others include planting, and fertilization and cutting to promote sucker growth. In some cases, campground closure for limited periods may be used to improve site conditions.

Several species of trees in Whiteshell are subject to particularly debilitating infestation and disease. Some control programs have been implemented around developed areas, mainly for aesthetic purposes. Ground and aerial spraying of fenithrothion to control spruce budworms, and of malathion to combat forest tent caterpillars has been done in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Where it is considered necessary the Parks Branch will approve the use of chemicals for insect and disease control, subject to conditions established by the Clean Environment Commission.

5.4 Wildlife

Management will focus on those species of wildlife which are rare, endangered, of economic importance, have specialized habitat requirements or are particularily susceptible to disturbance. One of the major aspects of management will be protection of such key habitats as wintering, nesting and staging areas, and reptiles' egg-laying locations. The need to establish wildlife refuges encompassing these types of habitats will be evaluated on a continuous basis.

Other management initiatives will focus on habitat protection and improvement. For ungulates, this will require that the layout of proposed roads and snowmobile trails be carefully determined to avoid over-wintering grounds, and the size of harvested forest areas be just as carefully regulated. Controlled clearing may be used in specified areas to improve habitat. For raptors and colonial nesting birds, control over access and the maintenance of buffers around nesting areas will be the primary means used to ensure adequate protection.

Waterfowl habitat at specific sites such as the Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary may be improved through manipulation of water levels and the provision of nesting boxes and supplementary feeding.

The control of wildlife species such as black bear and beaver in developed areas will be through relocation and harvesting when necessary.

As specified under zoning, hunting will be excluded from the Wilderness Zone and Access Zones, and will be limited to waterfowl only in Intensive Recreation Zones. Additional opportunities for hunting big game, upland game birds and waterfowl will be provided, however, in portions of the Frances Lake and Malloy Lake Extensive Recreation Zones (currently designated as the Whiteshell Game Bird Refuge) which are closed to hunting at present. The Game Bird Refuge will be maintained expressly for the protection of Canada geese in and around the Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary.

With these exceptions, current hunting regulations will apply in the park subject to annual review.

5.5 Human Heritage

The significance of the human heritage of Whiteshell Provincial Park has been partially documented. To ensure protection of these resources, proposals for public land development and resource harvesting will be routinely submitted to the Historic Resources Branch in order that an archaeological evaluation may be undertaken. Where necessary, rescue operations will be undertaken prior to site development to recover artifacts. Whenever possible developmental activities will be monitored to further identify and ensure protection of archaeological resources. The knowledge gained from such studies will be imparted to park visitors through interpretive facilities and programs.

5.6 Scientific Research

Scientific research by recognized educational and scientific institutions and accredited individuals will be encouraged where it can be of benefit to science in general and to specific resource management or educational programs in particular. At present there are a number of such ongoing projects in the park. In the future, research projects will be subject to the following stipulations.

i. Removal of specimens and artifacts from the park will be only by permission of the Director of Parks;

ii. upon completion of any studies, a copy of data and reports will be filed with the Director of Parks; and

iii. collection of any specimens recognized as endangered species will not be permitted.

5.7 Permit-review Process

Control over commercial use and harvesting of resources will be achieved through a permit-review process. All proponents will be required to submit detailed descriptions of projects and specifics of proposed operations. Terms and conditions will be applied to any permit issued to ensure that

i. special areas are protected;

ii. critical fish and wildlife habitats are not impaired

iii. existing patterns of permitted recreational use are not interfered with; and

iv. potential recreational resources are not irreparably damaged.

The above will be achieved by the establishment of terms and conditions respecting

i. the location of the proposed activity and associated infrastructure, e.g. work camps, provision for waste disposal, all-weather or temporary roads;

ii. the methods and scale of proposed harvesting or extracting activities, e.g. size of clear cuts; and

iii. the timing of activities, e.g. winter or summer.

The formulation of terms and conditions will be guided by such sources as the Special Areas Catalogue, guidelines contained in the **Southern Region Forest Operations Management, Good Housekeeping Manual** and procedures outlined in the **Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines.**

Further guidelines relating to commercial resource harvesting follow.

5.8 Forestry

To a large extent forestry operations will be guided by the Southern Region Forest Operations Management, Good Housekeeping Manual and the Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines. The former prescribes desired practices relating to such items as size of clear cuts, cutting-block layout, establishment and protection of buffers, slash and regeneration treatment, construction of roads, landings and borrow pits, and development and operation of camps and saw-mill sites.

A 5-year plan for harvesting and regeneration, including provisions for shoreline and trail buffers, will be prepared and updated annually. Whenever necessary forestry operations will be scheduled in the off-season from October to April.

5.9 Wild Rice

South of P.R. 44, management of wild rice harvesting will continue on a lease basis. Improvement of lease areas through such means as water-level manipulation may be permitted where this does not adversely affect recreational use or significant natural and cultural resources.

Areas north of P.R. 44 will continue to be important to native people. To reduce the serious problems, caused in the past by uncontrolled use of mechanical harvesting equipment, traditional methods will be encouraged for wild-rice harvesting in this area.

5.10 Mining

Specific guidelines relating to exploration for mineral resources will be detailed through the permit-review process. Wherever possible exploratory activities will occur in the off-season. Furthermore, the development of mineral resources in or adjacent to Intensive Recreation

Zones will be limited generally to small-scale operations, for example, those with a work-force of 20 people or less. Also limited to the off-season could be the transportation of ores for processing outside the park.

The following guidelines will apply to the extraction and/or removal of soil, sand, gravel and rock from the park.

i. Recovery of quarriable material from designated sites may be approved.

ii. If such materials are not available from designated sites, they may be obtained from other areas only when the recovery thereof does not impair recreational values.

iii. Borrow pits or other quarries may be created within the park only when other sources of supply are not readily available.

All areas subjected to mineral extraction must be rehabilitated upon completion of the work.

5.11 Trapping

Present commitments to trapping in the park will be honoured. The continuation of trapping in the Mantario Wilderness Zone, after present commitments are met, will be dependent upon the experience gained in preserving the wilderness values of the zone during the life of the present commitments.

Trappers may construct one cabin in their trapline area subject to conditions established by permit. When a trapline is vacated, the cabin may be sold to the new line holder. However, if suitable arrangements cannot be made for the transfer of the building it will, after one year, become property of the Crown.

6.0 Park Operations

Park operations include those activities and procedures required for the administration and servicing of park lands and programs.

The Administrative Headquarters for Whiteshell Provincial Park are at Rennie. Staff here and at Seven Sisters, Falcon Lake and Lac du Bonnet District Offices are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the 16 transient campgrounds, eight seasonal campgrounds, three trailer villages and 23 cottage subdivisions in the park. In addition, the golf course at Falcon Beach and numerous day-use areas, waysides and other public-use facilities are administered by these staff.

Operational programs and guidelines for a number of recreational activities, land-uses and services are discussed below.

6.1 Camping

6.1.1 Transient Campgrounds

The trend in recent years to use such equipment as meal tents and cabanas and the increased use of trailers has led to problems of congestion in many campgrounds. Furthermore, the use of some of this equipment contravenes current regulations. Thus, a conflict is created between Parks staff who are required to enforce regulations and park-users who wish to enjoy these amenities. Consequently, a review of the current regulations is being undertaken with a view to making adjustments which more accurately reflect current circumstances. This will be complemented by improvements in campground design to provide additional space at campsites.

6.1.2 Seasonal Camping

In recent years there has been a continued strong demand for seasonal camping in Whiteshell. The camping program in the plan identifies campgrounds that will be allocated solely to seasonal camping and others that will accomodate a mixture of camping types. The option will be retained to adjust the overall capacity of campgrounds and the ratio of seasonal and transient sites in mixed campgrounds depending upon site conditions and public demands.

The possibility of allocating seasonal camping sites on a split-season basis will be investigated on a province-wide basis. This would have the effect of increasing opportunities for seasonal camping while minimizing the need for construction of new campsites.

6.1.3 Remote Camping

In response to the general overall increase in backcountry travel and problems of garbage disposal, indiscriminate camping, and lighting fires, a program of managed camping in remote areas will be introduced to Whiteshell Provincial Park.

With the implementation of this program backcountry travellers would be required to register at the appropriate park office. Designated campsites will be established on a number of the park's important canoe routes and the large interior lakes.

6.1.4 Group Camping

Group camping facilities are provided in the Intensive Recreation Zones at Caddy, Falcon, White and West Hawk Lakes. These facilities are presently available on the following basis. Free camping privileges are available to school groups and charitable organizations, but school groups wishing to use regular campground sites are required to pay regular fees.

In future, the following guidelines will apply to allocation and use of these sites.

i. Bona fide charitable organizations and school and youth groups under appropriate leadership may use sites on a no-charge basis. Booking of sites must be finalized no later than 30 days prior to use.

ii. When not booked, other groups will be afforded use of these sites for applicable daily fee.

iii. Any group wishing to use regular transient campsites would be subject to the applicable daily fee.

6.2 Subdivisions

Cottage owners have a growing interest in winter recreation in the park. Use of cottages for winter visits is encouraged, however, such services as snow-ploughing will continue to be provided on a cost-recovery basis. The need to expand current lease conditions to reflect increased winter use of cottages will be investigated.

This casual recreational use of cottages is to be distinguished from permanent occupancy. Permanent occupancy of cottages will be permitted only in specific circumstances. These are outlined as follows.

i. Employees of the Crown or operators of concessions within the park will be granted approval while employed by the Crown or operating as leased concessionairs, subject to such conditions or requirements as are outlined in **The Provincial Park Lands Act** and **Regulations**.

ii. Other requests from lot holders for permanent-residency status will be considered in such areas and under such conditions that are approved by the Minister.

iii. Requests for permanent-residency status will only be granted in areas where there are central systems for year-round sewage disposal or where separate sewage systems are winterized.

6.3 Commercial Operations

The leasing of land in Whiteshell Provincial Park for such commercial services as lodges, motels and restaurants was begun in the late 1930's and early 1940's. In 1960, **The Provincial Parks Act** provided greater detail on leasing, siting and regulation of the commercial services in the park system.

A variety of programs will be undertaken to improve the quality and enhance the viability of commercial recreational operations in the park. Specifically:

i. The Parks Branch will initiate regular meetings with operators of commercial recreational facilities prior to each summer and winter season, to share insights on the past season, and to establish new initiatives.

ii. A comprehensive fee proposal will be reviewed with operators. This will provide for land rent, levies for general park service, recovery of costs of any direct service, charges for buildings where these are built by the Province, and an opportunity-charge related to the type of business. As a whole this proposal will bring equitableness to the present fee structure, which is highly variable, and will result in cost reductions to many operators.

iii. A promotional program for the park season will be developed. This will include information on opportunities in the park, commercial operations and on recreational packages jointly developed by the operators. The opportunity-charge in the proposed fees will be considered as the business sector's contribution to fundng this program.

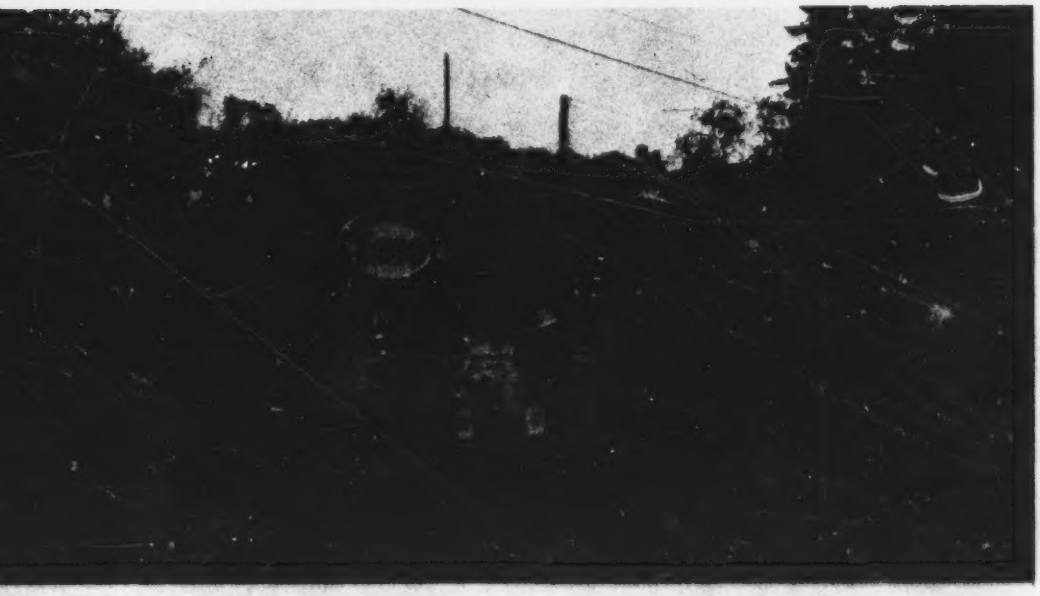
iv. Extension of the season will be considered and winter use of the park will be encouraged.

v. Opportunities for contracting out park services, e.g. campground operation, will be identified as means for improving services to park visitors, cost reduction to government and revenue enchancement to contractors.

vi. The assistance of other Departments and of the operators will be sought in the development of a training program on business and hospitality management for operators and staff of commercial recreational facilities.

In the future, expansion of commercial opportunities in the park will be permitted providing that

i. there is a capacity in the resource base to support the use generated by the proposed venture;



ii. it is judged to be desirable and compatible with existing use and development; and

iii. the proposed venture is shown to be potentially viable.

Application for the development of desirable enterprises must be supported by a pro forma financial statement which indicates economic viability. This same prerequisite will apply to existing operations proposed for sale where viability is a serious concern.

6.4 Security and Safety

Since the inception of the Park Patrol under the direction of the Rangers a number of benefits have accrued. The Park Patrol carry out a variety of duties within the park, including public relations, information dissemination, enforcement of regulations, emergency response and first aid. These duties are carried out only in the intensively developed areas, however, and there is no structured program for supervision in isolated sections of the park. Intermittent patrols will therefore be introduced into the Wilderness, Backcountry and Extensive Zones of the park. The purpose of these periodic patrols will be to

i. document the types and amount of recreational use in selected areas and evaluate the effect on site conditions;

ii. ensure that regulations concerning sport fishing, hunting, refuse disposal and the use of fire are adhered to;

iii. respond to the needs of public safety; and

iv. conduct specific management programs which are implemented from time to time, e.g. creel census.

6.5 Land Use

6.5.1 Private Land

Private land parcels within the park will not be eligible for cottage subdivision. Owners of private land can apply to build a cottage, provided there is no cottage on their land already.

6.5.2 Tenure

At present, approximately 55% of all cottage lots on Crown lands in Whiteshell are held on the basis of 21-year leases, renewable for an additional 21 years subject to terms and conditions of the leases being met. The remainder of these lots are held under annual general permits.

It is the intent of the Parks Branch to convert all lots on Crown lands to a leasehold system and to routinely re-issue long-term leases for properties which have reached the end of a 42-year term.

6.5.3 Major Service corridors

At present there are a number of such corridors transecting Whiteshell Provincial Park. These include both the C.N.R. and the C.P.R. lines, power transmission lines and the trans-Canada gas pipeline.

Any future proposals for development of these types of corridors within Whiteshell will be subject to a permit-review process. In general, however, such developments will not be permitted within the Wilderness Zone and, as far as possible, they would be appropriately buffered from sight along park roads and currently developed recreational areas.

6.6 Services

6.6.1 Refuse Collection

The Parks Branch has introduced a program of centralized garbage collection from cottage subdivisions and campgrounds. This program was designed to reduce the cost of operation and to offset significant

problems with bears and rodents. This program will continue and will be expanded, where practical, to areas not served by this central collection method.

6.6.2 Road Maintenance

Maintenance of subdivisions' roads includes gravelling, grading and dust abatement, with emulsions applied annually. Provision can be made for paving roads in subdivisions subject to a majority of the lot-holders benefiting from this aggreeing to bear the costs.

The Parks Branch, in conjunction with the Department of Highways, provides snow-ploughing services for Provincial Roads 307, 309, 301 and 302. Back roads and roads in the various subdivisions are ploughed on demand when equipment is available. Costs are charged to the user or users requesting the service until such time as a modified fee schedule comes into effect.

4.0 Implementation and Phasing

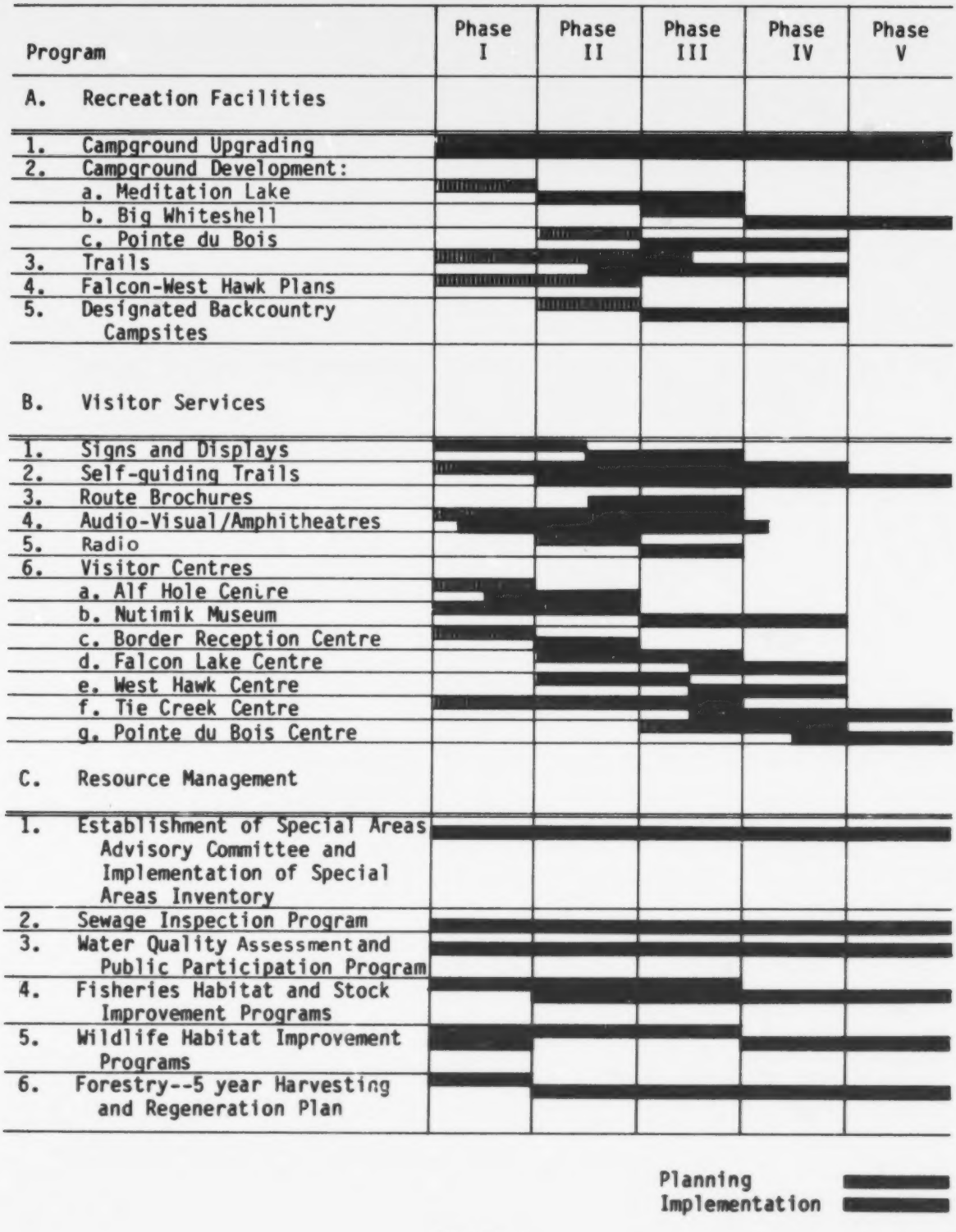


FIGURE 4
PHASING

7.0 Implementation and Phasing

The schedule of implementation and phasing (Figure 4) establishes the sequence for delivery of programs identified in the plan over five phases. For most of these programs more detailed planning is required.

Programs for recreational facilities, for example, must be preceded by the collection of engineering data, the preparation of landscape designs and cost estimates. A similar process is required for Visitor Services programs.

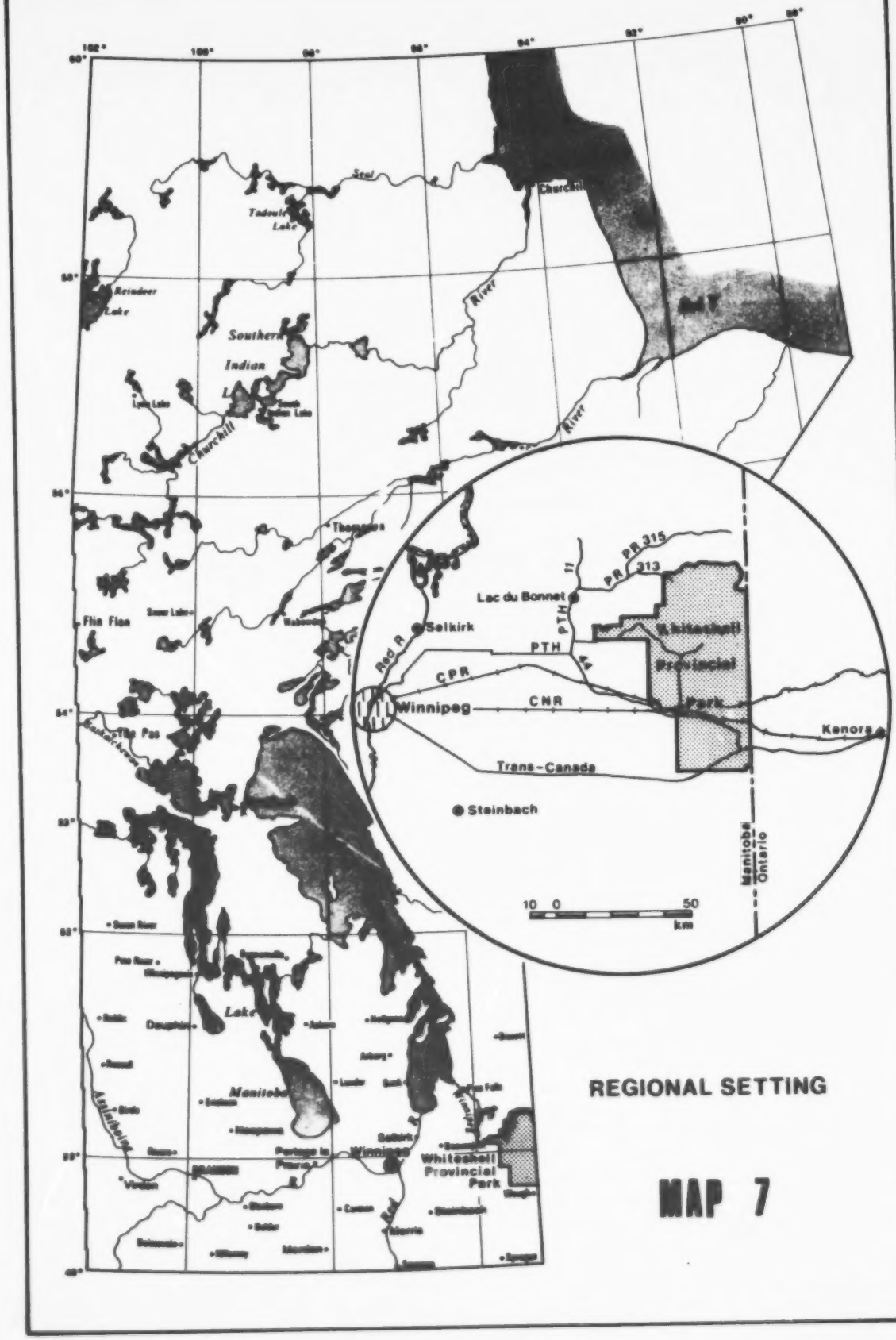
Implementation of specific programs for management of resources will occur in co-operation with other Resource Branches of the Department of Natural Resources.

Appendices

APPENDIX A

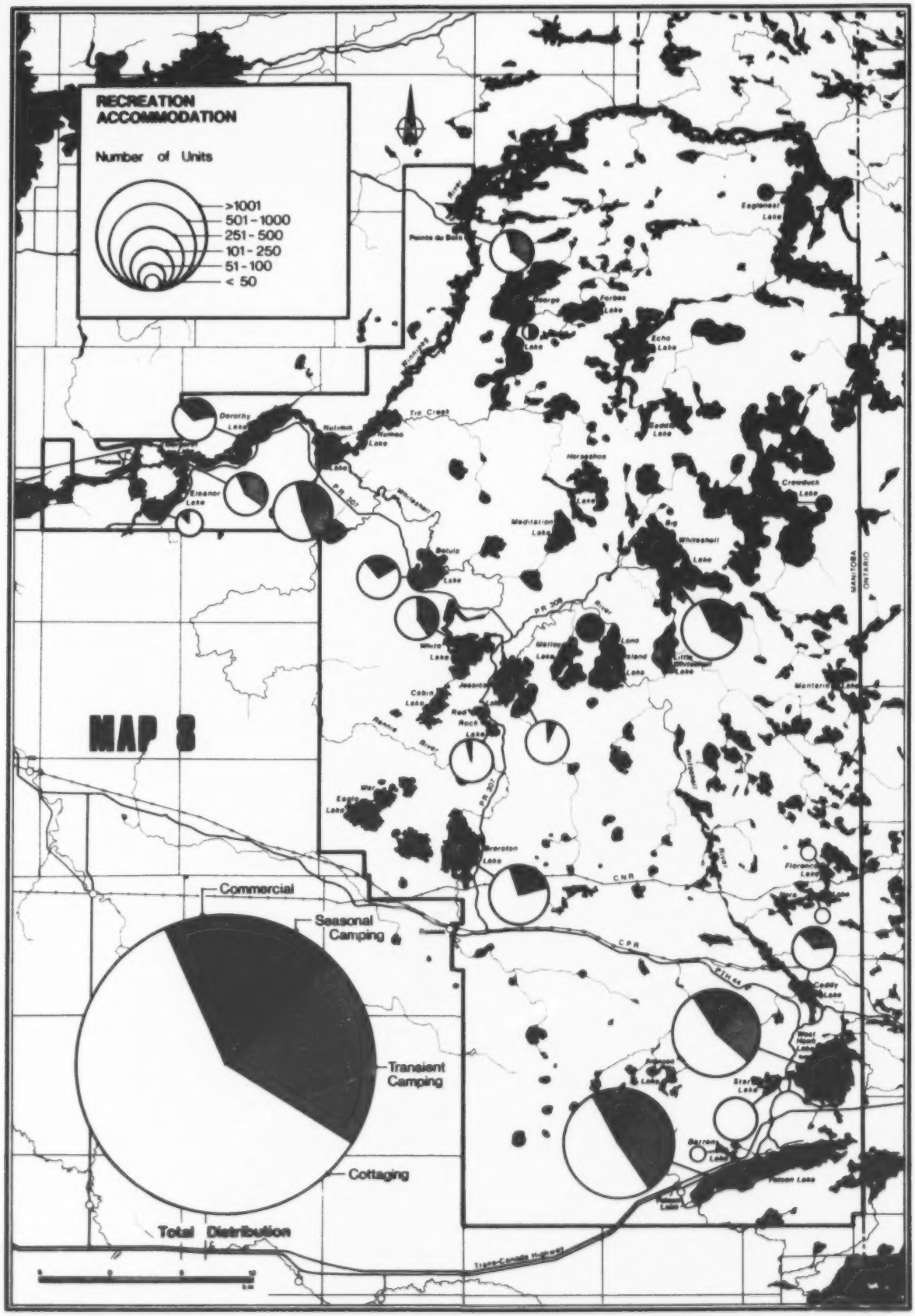
Background Information Maps

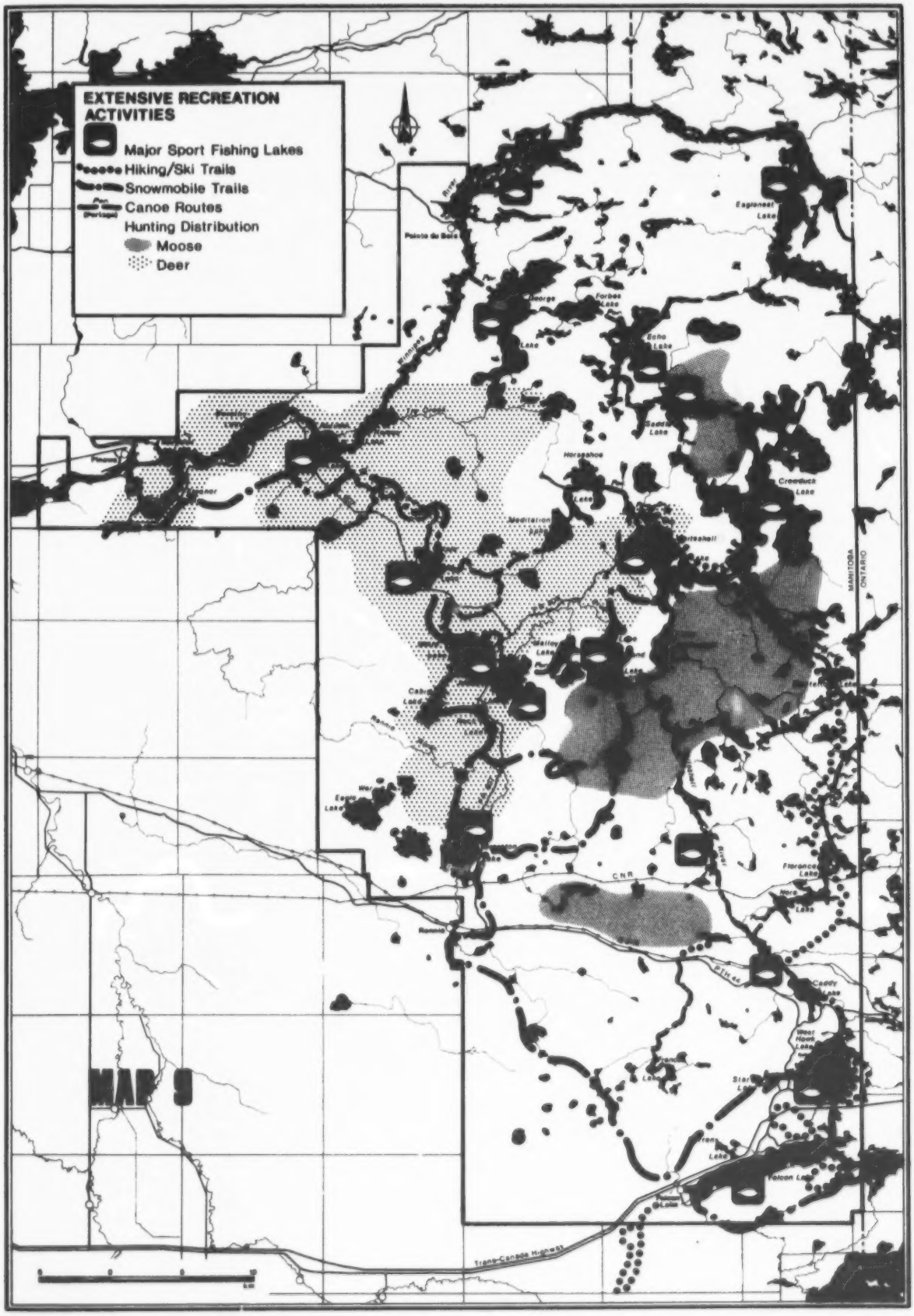
The following background information maps were included in the Draft Master Plan along with a descriptive text. Though the text does not appear in this document, the maps have been included to highlight some important information that was used in preparing the plan.

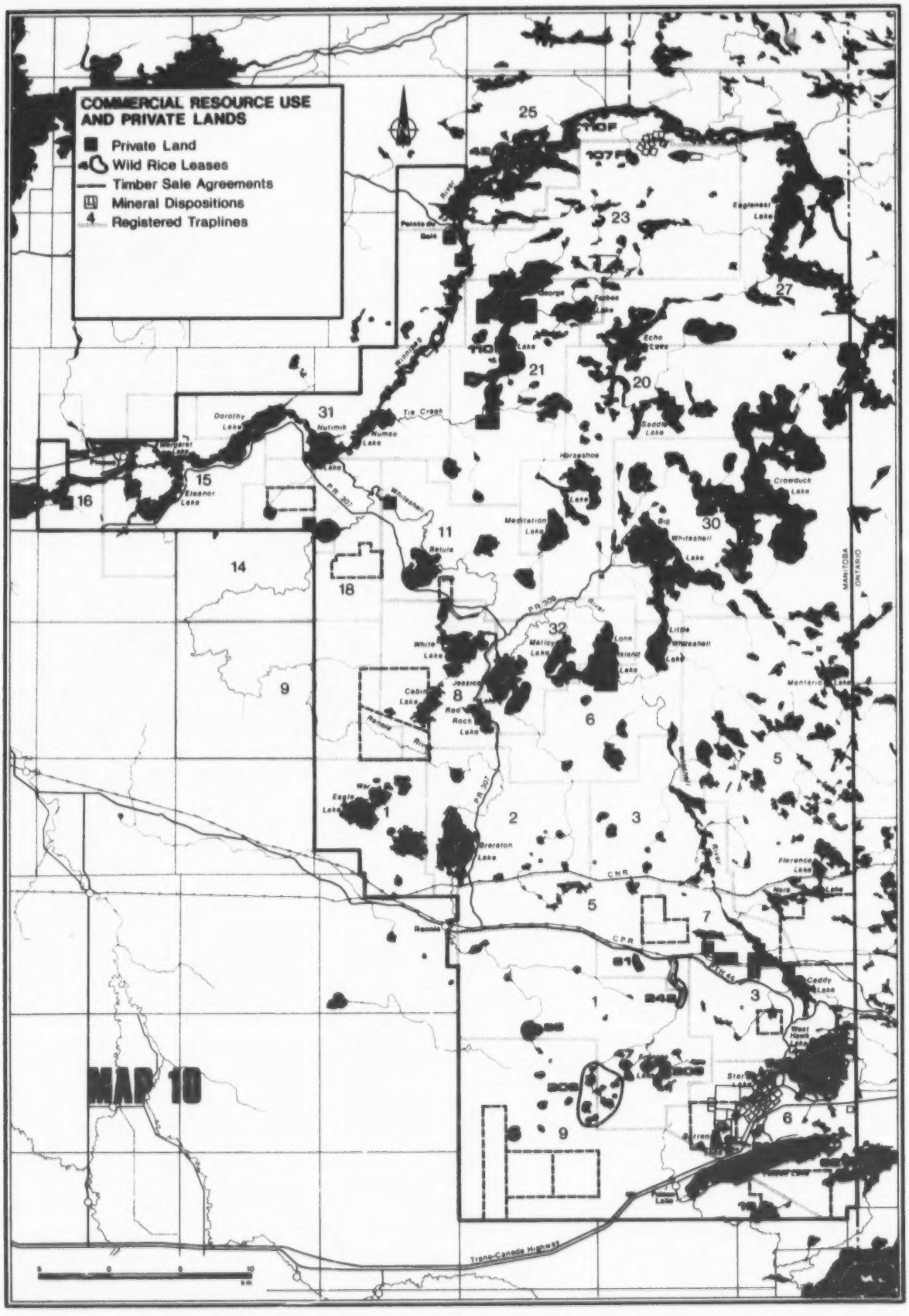


REGIONAL SETTING

MAP 7

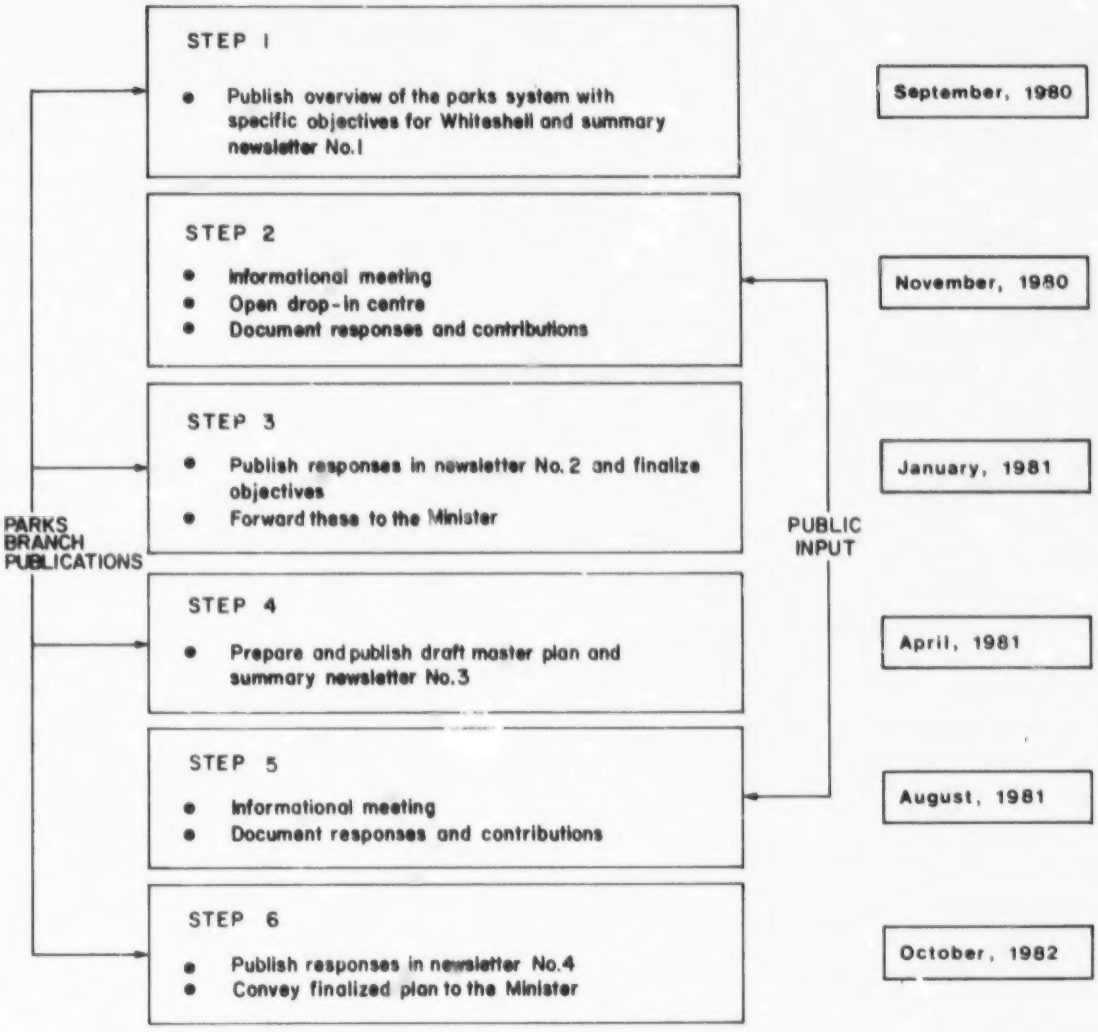

RECREATION ACCOMMODATION
Number of Units
>1001
501 - 1000
251 - 500
101 - 250
51 - 100
< 50
MAP 8
Commercial
Seasonal Camping
Transient Camping
Cottaging
Total Distribution
Trans-Canada Highway
CNR
CPR
MANITOBA
ONTARIO


EXTENSIVE RECREATION ACTIVITIES
Major Sport Fishing Lakes
Hiking/Ski Trails
Snowmobile Trails
Canoe Routes
Hunting Distribution
Moose
Deer
MAP 9
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
CNR
Trans-Canada Highway


COMMERCIAL RESOURCE USE AND PRIVATE LANDS
Private Land
Wild Rice Leases
Timber Sale Agreements
Mineral Dispositions
4 Registered Traplines
MAP 10
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
CNR
CPR
Trans-Canada Highway

APPENDIX B

WHITESHELL MASTER PLANNING PROCESS


DATE COMPLETED
STEP 1
• Publish overview of the parks system with specific objectives for Whiteshell and summary newsletter No.1
September, 1980
STEP 2
• Informational meeting
• Open drop-in centre
• Document responses and contributions
November, 1980
STEP 3
• Publish responses in newsletter No. 2 and finalize objectives
• Forward these to the Minister
January, 1981
PARKS BRANCH PUBLICATIONS
PUBLIC INPUT
STEP 4
• Prepare and publish draft master plan and summary newsletter No.3
April, 1981
STEP 5
• Informational meeting
• Document responses and contributions
August, 1981
STEP 6
• Publish responses in newsletter No.4
• Convey finalized plan to the Minister
October, 1982

APPENDIX C

SPECIAL AREAS

Special Areas contain biological, geological or human heritage resources which may be of regional, provincial or national significance. The twenty Special Areas shown on Map 1 are among the most important known features in Whiteshell Provincial park. The identification of Special Areas will be done on a continuous basis.

The types and examples of the Special Areas designated in this plan are listed below.

Geological Features
- laval pillows
- pothole drilling site
- natural springs
- salt deposits

Biological Features
- flora (eg. fungus, cacti, Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Forest Community)
- fauna (eg. rare mud fish, Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary, Pointe du Bois Game Bird Refuge, nesting bird colonies, raptor nesting sites)

Human Heritage Features
- early homestead
- archeological sites (eg. Bannock Point and Tie Creek Petroforms)

Selected References

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Interdisciplinary Systems Ltd. "Recommendations for Resource Management in Whiteshell Provincial Park.". Unpublished report prepared for the Parks Branch, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, 1980.

Manitoba. Department of Natural Resources. Parks Branch. "A Preliminary Market Study of Whiteshell Provincial Park", by Darsan Wang. Unpublished report, 1980.

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Manitoba. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Historic Resources Division. **Whiteshell Study 1978: A Review of the Archeology and Prehistory** by Leo Pettipas. Technical Document 5. Winnipeg: Queen's Printer, 1979.

Pattimore, John. "Whiteshell Provincial Park Interpretive Feature Inventory". Unpublished report, Parks Branch, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, 1980.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Planning Team:

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Douglas Mazur	Chief of Planning(former)
Willard Anderson	Interpretive Planner
Richard Wilson	Park Planner

The Planning Team wishes to acknowledge the support and contributions of Mr. Derek Doyle, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Art Hoole, current Chief of Planning and Dr. Ray England, Planning Consultant. In addition, many others from within the Parks Branch, the Department of Natural Resources and other Governmental Departments have lent support or provided information. Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

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Drafting:	Bryan Spulnick

Number/
Numéro

2

THE WHITESHELL MASTER PLAN

Summary Report
August, 1983

MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THE WHITESHELL MASTER PLAN

Summary Report
August, 1983

MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FOREWORD

This report summarizes the master plan for Whiteshell Provincial Natural Park.

Considerable public involvement shaped this document. The first draft was released in April 1981, and major changes were made in it as a result of public meetings, briefs and personal communications. Further modifications followed additional public review in January 1983. These later changes include provision for late-season waterfowl hunting in Intensive Recreation Zones and addition of Marion Lake to the Extensive Recreation Zone. The plan makes a clear commitment to existing cottages and renewal of long-term leases.

Provincial Parks are special places. **The Provincial Park Lands Act** dedicates parks to the people of Manitoba and visitors to the province for their healthful enjoyment and for cultural, educational and social benefits. I believe that the Whiteshell master plan strongly reflects the intent of this legislation.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the development of the master plan. Your interest and efforts in contributing to this challenging process are very much appreciated. We are resolved to continue an open dialogue as master plans for other provincial parks are initiated.

Al Mackling
Minister of Natural Resources

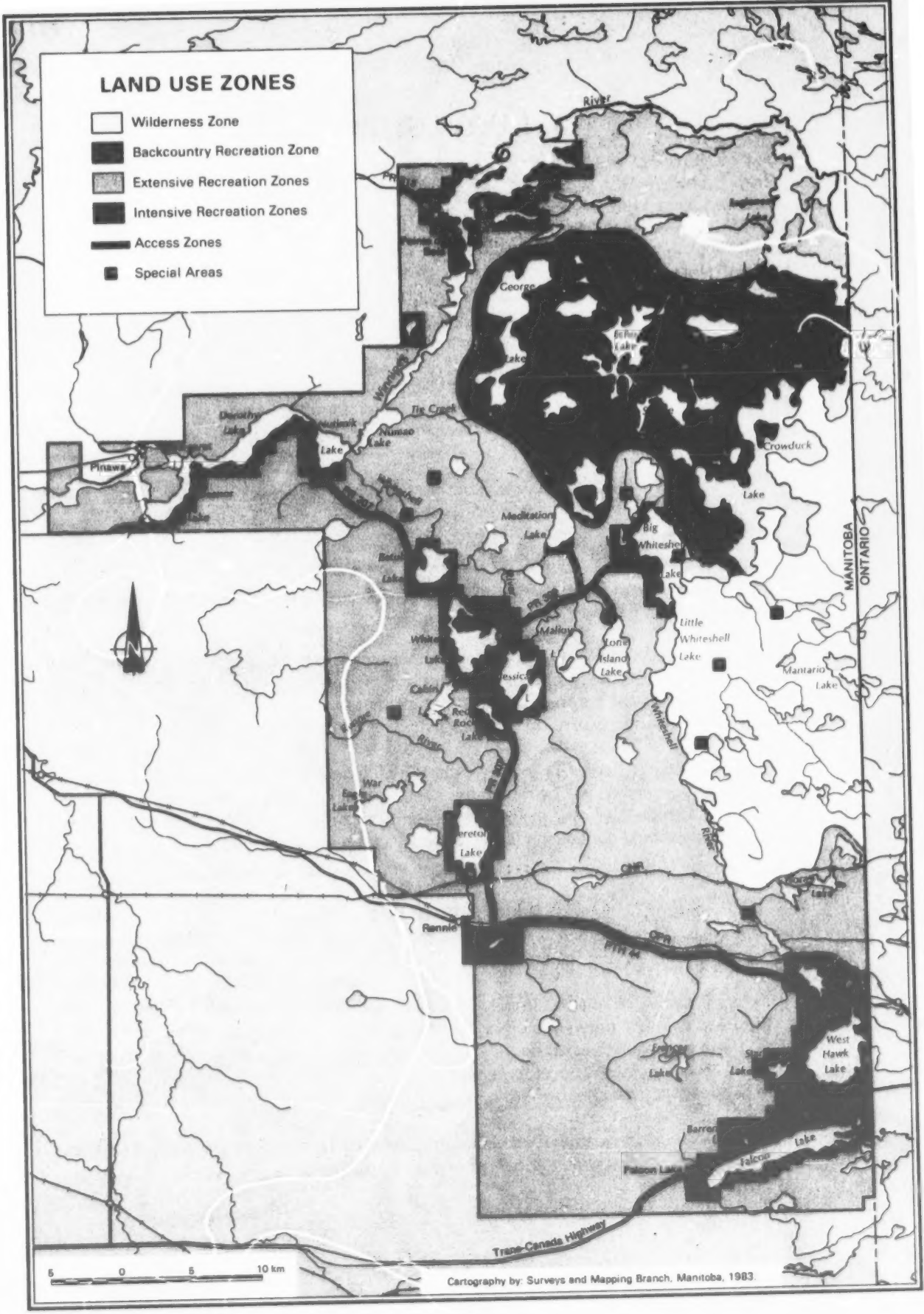
THE ROLE OF WHITESHELL PROVINCIAL PARK

Encompassing some 2,764 sq. km. of land and water on the southwestern edge of the Precambrian Shield, Whiteshell is the oldest and largest of Manitoba's Provincial Parks.

Whiteshell is classified as a Natural Park under **The Provincial Park Lands Act**. Natural Parks are intended to be representative of Manitoba's natural landscapes, including areas of exceptional quality. Relatively spacious land and water areas, they can provide a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities and are managed for multiple use. Whiteshell meets these criteria.

The following precepts delineate the role of Whiteshell within the provincial park system. This park will:

- protect and preserve significant examples of natural history and the outstanding cultural history exemplified by native petroforms;
- be Manitoba's key recreational area in the Canadian Shield providing opportunities for high quality camping and extensive trail systems for year-round use;
- provide for the current level of high quality cottaging;
- provide an accessible Wilderness Zone for non-motorized recreational pursuits;
- be managed to maintain a diverse sport fishery;
- accommodate resource harvesting without detriment to the park environment and visitors.


LAND USE ZONES
Wilderness Zone
Backcountry Recreation Zone
Extensive Recreation Zones
Intensive Recreation Zones
Access Zones
Special Areas
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
Trans-Canada Highway
5 0 5 10 km
Cartography by: Surveys and Mapping Branch, Manitoba, 1983.

LAND USE ZONES

Zoning is the key feature of the master plan. It provides a balance between opportunities for various types of outdoor recreation, and sets guidelines for resource management. Activities or uses not expressly identified as permitted in a particular zone are excluded. Existing uses which do not conform to those permitted in a particular zone are regarded as nonconforming. Such uses will be limited to present levels of development or ultimately be discontinued. This will only occur, however, without undue hardship to current users.

Wilderness Zone

Whiteshell's Wilderness Zone, comprising approximately 320 sq. km. or 12% of the park, is entitled the Mantario Wilderness Zone. This zone is set aside for canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, primitive camping and other activities which do not require mechanized access.

Fishing is permitted in the Mantario Wilderness Zone; however, hunting is not. Intensive forms of recreational development such as cottaging, and the use of snowmobiles, motorboats and aircraft for recreational purposes are also not permitted. Private group camps are nonconforming and no further expansion of this activity will be permitted in the zone.

Commercial resource harvesting in the Mantario Wilderness Zone is non-conforming. Present commitments to trappers will be met in this zone. Trapping will be monitored in terms of impact on wilderness values over the term of present commitments. This will establish whether or not trapping should continue in the Mantario Wilderness Zone after present commitments are met.

Forestry and mining would be excluded from the zone. At present there are no commitments to either. Based on existing information, the capability and potential for harvest or development of forest and mineral resources is low.

Specific applications for small-scale mineral exploration may be approved if it can be shown that the 'need to know' outweighs other considerations. Such operations would be subject to specific terms and conditions; approval of exploration would not imply approval of a mining operation. Proposals for the development of mineral resources will only be approved when it can be demonstrated that the benefits far exceed potential loss of inherent values in the zone.

The development of all-weather roads will not be permitted in the Mantario Wilderness Zone.

Backcountry Recreation Zone

The Echo Lake Backcountry Recreation Zone, extending over 420 sq. km. or 15% of the park area, encompasses Whiteshell's outstanding interior lakes: Crowduck, George, Echo, Forbes, Horseshoe and Saddle lakes. Generally, both motorized and non-motorized recreational activities are permitted in the Echo Lake Zone. Specifically, the use of float-equipped aircraft and snowmobiles is permissible on the condition that use of snowmobiles be confined to designated sites and routes. The use of motor boats is common in this zone. The issuing of boat-cache permits for the general public, though not done at present, may be implemented in the future. Off-road use of vehicles such as jeeps and trucks except by approved commercial operators is not permitted.

Water-access campsites and existing commercial recreational facilities such a tourist lodges, licenced boat-caches and tent camps conform to the purpose of the zone. Cottages and private group camps, however, are nonconforming, and no further expansion of these will be permitted in this zone.

Fishing and hunting are permitted as are commercial resource activities such as forestry, trapping and wild rice harvesting. Mining may also be permitted. The development of all-weather roads, however, will not be permitted within the Echo Lake Zone, to maintain the present atmosphere of isolation and related recreational experiences.

Any proposed forestry or mining operations will be subject to the above stipulation and to terms and conditions of permits to explore, develop or harvest. Such terms and conditions will be designed to ensure long-term protection of Special Areas, fish and wildlife habitat, and existing or potential recreational opportunities. All applications to explore for or develop minerals or harvest timber will be reviewed by the Parks Branch prior to the issuance of permits.

Extensive Recreation Zones

The four Extensive Recreation Zones in Whiteshell Provincial Park cover over 1,701 sq. km. or 62% of the park's total area. These zones are the Frances Lake Zone, the Malloy Lake Zone, the Cabin Lake Zone and the Winnipeg River Zone.

Generally, all recreational activities permitted in the Backcountry Zone are appropriate in Extensive Recreation Zones. Fishing and hunting are permitted with the exception of some specific restrictions for hunting in the Frances Lake Zone and the Malloy Lake Zone (in the area south of the C.N.R. line up to the east shore of the Whiteshell River). The hunting of geese is not permitted in these areas to ensure greater protection of Canada Geese frequenting the Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary.

Generally, forestry and mining operations are permitted in Extensive Recreation Zones and all-weather roads may be developed in support of these activities. Any such operations will, however, be subject to terms and conditions of permits to explore, harvest or develop.

Trapping in Extensive Zones will be permitted to continue under prevailing management and regulation. Wild rice harvesting will also be permitted to continue.

Intensive Recreation Zones

Nine Intensive Recreation Zones have been designated in Whiteshell Provincial Park, covering some 303 sq. km. or 10% of the park area. These zones encompass seven existing intensively developed areas and two localized sites.

The Intensive Recreation Zones identified in Whiteshell are:

- Falcon/West Hawk Lakes Intensive Recreation Zone (which includes Falcon, West Hawk, Star and Caddy lakes);
- Brereton Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
- Jessica Lake Intensive Recreation Zone (which includes White, Jessica and Red Rock lakes);
- Meditation Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
- Lone Island Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
- Big Whiteshell Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
- Betula Lake Intensive Recreation Zone;
- Nutimik Lake Intensive Recreation Zone (which includes Eleanor, Dorothy and Nutimik lakes) and
- Pointe du Bois Intensive Recreation Zone.

Existing cottage subdivisions, campgrounds of all types, day-use areas, commercial services such as stores, service stations and motels, and park maintenance and administrative facilities are permitted in these zones. Condominium development would not be permitted, consistent with the final planning objectives.

Commercial air carriers are permitted to operate at designated locations in the Intensive Recreation Zones. The scheduling of flights will be regulated to resolve conflicts resulting from present operations of this type.

Small-scale forestry and mining operations may be permitted subject to special terms and conditions formulated through a review of applications for permits. Terms and conditions will ensure that primary recreational values are not compromised, operations are not aesthetically offensive to other users, and Special Areas, streams, lakeshores and critical fish and wildlife habitat are not impaired.

Trapping and wild rice harvesting will also be permitted subject to conditions which prevent or minimize conflicts with recreational use. Hunting for waterfowl only will be permitted in Intensive Recreation Zones. Seasons will be established in the late fall, generally in the period from mid-October to mid-November.

Access Zones

Access Zones in Whiteshell Provincial Park consist of a 300 metre corridor on either side of the centre line of major highways and roads linking the Intensive Recreation Zones within the park. These zones are the Trans-Canada Highway, Provincial Trunk Highway 44, Provincial Roads 307 and 309, and access roads to Meditation and Lone Island Lakes.

Wayside picnic or camping facilities, water-access sites, commercial services such as service stations, and scenic viewpoints, trails and administrative and service facilities (e.g. refuse disposal sites) are permitted in these zones.

Forestry will be permitted on a very selective basis for the primary purpose of enhancing regeneration of forest stands adjacent to the road. Trapping and wild rice harvesting are permitted, subject to conditions which will prevent or minimize conflicts with recreational use. With the exception of sand and gravel removal, mineral explorations and development are not permitted. Hunting is not permitted in Access Zones.

Special Areas

Twenty Special Areas which contain biological, geological or human heritage resources of regional, provincial and national significance are designated in this plan. Generally, Special Areas may be designated within any of the above-mentioned zones and vary in size from nesting sites of bald eagles, to prehistoric rock petroforms, to representative floral and faunal communities.

Many significant resources such as archaelogical sites remain unidentified, while others, such as nesting sites, may change in number and location over time. Thus, it will be necessary to continuously update designations of Special Areas. A target of 1% of the park area within this category has been established.

Facilities for interpretation of Special Areas may be provided, but commercial resource use will not be permitted to encroach upon or occur within Special Areas.

PARK PROGRAMS

A variety of guidelines, opportunities and activities are defined in the master plan. These initiatives are summarized below.

Resource Management

- sewage disposal systems will be inspected regularly and upgrading required as necessary to alleviate water quality problems
- sport fisheries enhancement programs will be emphasized in Intensive Recreation Zones
- trout stocking programs will be extended to small accessible lakes
- the ban on the use of live bait will be continued
- representative examples of major floral communities will be designated and managed as Special Areas
- wildlife management activities will focus on species that are rare, endangered or of economic importance
- timber harvesting, mining, hunting, trapping and wild rice harvesting will be permitted in accordance with zoning limitations
- a five year plan for timber harvesting and regeneration including provisions for shoreline and trail buffers will be developed and updated annually
- commercial use of resources will be allowed by permit subject to terms and conditions on scale, location, methods and timing of operations
- wild rice harvesting will be permitted in accordance with provincial policy

Land Use

- private land within the park will not be eligible for cottage subdivision
- all Crown land lots can be converted to long-term leases which will be routinely renewed at the end of the term
- detailed development plans will be prepared for Falcon Lake and West Hawk Lake townsites.
- permanent occupancy is prohibited except as permitted by **The Provincial Park Lands Act**

Commercial Operations

- an equitable fee structure will be developed and reviewed with operators
- expansion of commercial operations will be permitted only where there is sufficent resource capacity and where a potentially viable venture is compatible with existing uses

Recreation and Visitor Services

- a bicycle trail between Falcon Lake and West Hawk Lake will be developed
- new hiking trails in the Echo Lake Backcountry Zone and the Cabin Lake Extensive Recreation Zone will be created
- a shorter return loop will be established on the Mantario Lake Trail
- a canoe route will link Whiteshell River with Mantario Lake
- new visitor centres will be established at West Hawk Lake, Falcon Lake, Pointe du Bois and Tie Creek
- Assinika, Beaver Creek and McGillivray interpretive trails will be upgraded and several new self-guiding interpretive trails developed
- interpretive brochures and navigational guides will be prepared for canoe routes on the Whiteshell River, Crowduck-Echo-George lakes and the Winnipeg River
- co-operative programs will be developed with commercial operators to promote facilities and services for park visitors
- designated campsites will be provided on canoe routes and interior lakes
- existing campgrounds in Intensive Recreation Zones will be redeveloped and upgraded including site buffering, electrical and washroom improvements
- transient and seasonal campsites will be expanded and reallocated as shown (see table)

CAMPING FACILITIES PROGRAM IN THE INTENSIVE RECREATION ZONES*

Zone	Site	Number of Camping Sites			Type of Camping			
		Existing	Proposed	Change	T	S	T&S	TV
FALCON-WEST HAWK LAKES	West Hawk Campground	161	161	0	●			
	West Hawk Trailer Village	145	145	0		●		●
	Falcon Lake Beach	292	292	0	●			
	Falcon Lake Lakeshore	165	165	0	●			
	Falcon Lake Beaver Creek	150	150	0	●			
	Falcon Lake Toniata	80	80	0		●		
	Falcon Lake Trailer Village	95	95	0		●		●
	Border Reception Campground	40	40	0	●			
	Caddy Lake	26	26	0	●			
BRERETON LAKE	Brereton Lake	88	75	−13		●		
JESSICA LAKE	White Lake	45	45	0			●	
BIG WHITESHELL	Big Whiteshell (Old)	20	20	0		●		
	Big Whiteshell (New)	150	150	0	●			
	Big Whiteshell (Proposed)	0	100	+100		●		
MEDITATION LAKE	Meditation Lake	0	150	+150	●			
LONE ISLAND LAKE	Lone Island Lake	99	99	0	●			
BETULA LAKE	Betula Lake	45	45	0			●	
NUTIMIK LAKE	Nutimik (Old)	98	98	0		●		
	Nutimik (New)	146	146	0			●	
	Otter Falls	70	70	0	●			
	Opapiskaw	85	85	0	●			
	Dorothy Lake	42	42	0				●
POINTE DU BOIS	Winnipeg River	45	145	+100			●	
	TOTAL	2037	2424	+337				

*The capacities proposed are subject to revision based on site assessment and public demand.

SYMBOLS
T – Transient Campground
S – Seasonal Campground
T & S – Transient & Seasonal Campground
TV – Trailer Village

IMPLEMENTATION

A regulation under the Park Lands Act establishes the park's land use zones and use conditions:

The complete master plan is available on request.

Please write to:

Parks Branch
280 Smith Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1K2

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL